

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, June 5, 2014

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In the army

Jennie joins the reserves for trials
See Page 2



Cruel Cassino

Jim's memories of battle at Italian abbey
See Page 6



Paddy's back

Dancing pensioner in big TV talent final
See Page 14



More will get 'Home Hero' help services

A SERVICE providing 'Home Heroes' to help people live independently at home is being expanded further into Birmingham.

The Home Heroes service, provided by the Halesowen-based New Outlook charity, provides tailor-made packages for people who need help to carry on living in their own home.

Each highly-trained helper can provide services including housework, shopping, preparing meals, paying bills, washing and dressing. They can even be a social companion, holiday escort or respite carer.

New Outlook is already providing Home Heroes to assist older and vulnerable people in the Ednington and Harborne areas but it is now expanding the service to cover the areas surrounding those two districts.

The expansion of Home Heroes comes soon after it emerged with flying colours from a routine Care Quality Commission inspection. The review said the service met every necessary standard, covering areas including the care and welfare of the people using the service and quality of service provision.

New Outlook chief executive Maureen Bradleysaid: "We're really proud of the services we provide and it's why we're expanding."

Society is now back in profit

THE West Bromwich Building Society has returned to profit for the first time since the credit crunch.

It follows a five-year 'back to basics' strategy for the 165-year-old society, which has 36 branches.

The society, which employs 800, made a pre-tax profit of £2.1 million for the year to the end of March following a loss of £9.1m in 2012/2013. It made a return to the residential lending market and lent £213.6m, up from £19.3m the previous year.

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR HOPE CENTRE

VOLUNTEERS at a Halesowen centre which helps more than 100 residents across Dudley borough every week are celebrating a royal honour.

The Hope Centre will be presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the equivalent of an MBE, at a special ceremony.

It was officially announced the centre, in Andrew Road, had been honoured with the accolade being celebrated this week by volunteers and users of the centre.

Representatives will attend the Queen's garden party on Tuesday and will be presented with the award at a later date.

The centre was set up in 2010 as a meeting place and advice centre for residents.

Need

It is used by between 80 and 140 people every week, helping people gain to access to help and providing items such as clothing and furniture, for those most in need.

The centre has 14 volunteers who also help job seekers with their CVs and to improve their computer skills.

A shop recently set up at the centre has proved a success in helping to raise funds for its work and is supported by members of the community who donate items.

Volunteers said the Christian-based centre operated on a 'no barriers' principle with people from all areas, backgrounds and religions welcome to use the centre.

It was put forward for the award by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris and former Belle Vale councillor Jill Nicholls.

Volunteers from the centre said they were 'absolutely delighted'.

Report by Lee Watton

Camilla Phillips, who helped set up the charity, said: "It is an incredible accolade and a tribute to all of the hard work of volunteers. We are based on Christian values and our aim has always been to serve the people of the community and treat everyone as family."

"There are no boundaries we are open to everyone, no matter where they live in the Dudley borough."

"Between 80 and 140 people access the service every week. We try to make as much available as possible to the community under one roof."

Camilla said there would be a big party to celebrate the centre receiving the award when the accolade would be presented.

"That is still all being planned. A couple of us are going to the Queen's garden party, which we are looking forward to."

The centre will be presented with a crystal glass award and certificate signed by Her Majesty.

Local assessment panels looked at the nominations and decided which to send to the national committee. The committee made recommendations to the Cabinet Office which sent the list to the Queen for her approval.



Celebrating the award are members of the Hope Centre team, from left, Louise Owen, Camilla Phillips and Wendy Riley

Project to unlock 'secret garden'

HALESOWEN Abbey Trust wants to unlock a 'secret garden' by buying the site and creating a visitor centre inside.

But the heritage group needs £20,000 to complete the purchase, and then £100,000 to kick-start a restoration project of the walled garden, which in recent years has been targeted by vandals.

Mick Freer, honorary secretary of the Halesowen Abbey Trust, said: "The walled garden has been here for 240 years and yet most Halesowen people are unaware of this treasure in our midst. With The Friends of the Leasowes we intend to restore the lost

garden and open it to the public, also turning the site into small allotments to grow again the food and flowers it once did."

"We also want a visitor centre to tell people the history of the estate and garden."

The 141-acre Leasowes Estate is Grade I listed parkland developed by poet William Shenstone in 1743. After his death in 1763, the house and grounds were purchased by Edward Horne, who built a new house and the walled garden to grow vegetables and flowers for the estate.

In 1934 Halesowen Council took over the estate before Stourbridge Col-

lege took ownership of the garden in 1974. Birmingham Metropolitan College now owns the site and has agreed to sell to Halesowen Abbey Trust.

The trust is being supported by Marianne Diller, chairman of Friends of The Leasowes, and Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

Mr Morris said: "Everybody involved is working really hard to turn the garden into a fantastic asset for our community. I am delighted to support them and will be working with them to try to find more ways to raise the money to buy, restore and maintain the walled garden." To help call Mr Freer on 0121 550 5440.

Teen was punched over bin nuisance

A MAN faces a curfew after taking the law into his own hands, confronting teenagers he believed responsible for anti-social behaviour before punching one of them.

Simon Hopkins struck his victim with a single blow after approaching the group in Rowley Regis, on November 30, after being contacted by his stepfather about youths causing a nuisance near Birmingham Road.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the injuries were so severe that the youth's jaw was wired for more than six weeks.

Hopkins approached the group and Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said they had begun to gather around Hopkins who struck the victim with a left-handed punch.

While one of the group later admitted knocking over a bin, there was no evidence the victim had misbehaved. Mr Rees said Hopkins showed remorse for what he had done.

Hopkins, aged 24, of Chillington Walk, Rowley Regis, pleaded guilty to a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm. He was given a 12-month jail sentence suspended for two years, 100 hours unpaid work and placed under a three-month curfew from 9pm to 6am.

New petition on mosque

A NEW petition has been launched against controversial mosque plans after the latest appeal over the development in Dudley was allowed to go forward.

Dudley Muslim Association has been granted a second High Court appeal regarding the site in Hall Street.

The online petition is the latest twist in the long-running saga after Dudley Council, which wants to reclaim the land, refused planning permission.

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HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



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Last chance to join energy auction

DUDLEY residents are being encouraged to get switched on to a new money saving energy scheme.

Dudley Council's big switch campaign is part of a national initiative where councils across the country take part in collective energy switching auctions to secure the best tariffs from energy suppliers.

The scheme is free to join and there is no obligation to switch as

people may already be on the best tariff possible and not in line for a saving.

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor David Sparks said: "Now is the time for people to look at switching their energy providers to get a good price for their fuel ahead of this winter."

The more people that register on the scheme, the greater the oppor-

tunity for a better deal from the energy providers. The auction takes place on Tuesday and people have until Monday to register. People need to know what their energy usage is to register.

This will be the fourth auction that Dudley Council has taken part in. Once the auction has taken place, the successful companies will write to residents with their offer.

People can then choose to switch if they wish.

Residents can call Dudley's Energy Advice Line on (01384) 817086 if they are in any doubt about how to calculate their energy usage and to get more information about switching.

People can register by visiting www.dudley.gov.uk or by calling 0300 555 2345.

Action-packed trials to recruit soldiers

WEAPONS training, cross-country driving and learning how to live rough – it is definitely not your average desk job.

But it can be part of day-to-day life for a reservist soldier and a fast-track course this summer is hoping to put new recruits from the West Midlands and Staffordshire through their paces and boost ranks.

There are plans to increase the national strength of the Army Reserve, formally the Territorial Army, from 19,000 to 30,000 by 2020, while cutting the regular army by 20,000, and it is hoped 90 recruits will complete this year's annual Midlands Challenge event.

More than 125 people have expressed an interest in the event, which starts in July and allows training to take place over a four-to-six-week period instead of up to one-and-a-half years, mainly over weekends.

Training

The course starts out at Swynerton Training Camp, in Cold Meece, Stone, but participants then move to Grantham and Catterick in North Yorkshire to complete their training.

Lessons in soldiering skills include weapons training, fitness and navigation and the chance to develop team building, decision making and leadership skills, with recruits benefiting from a new set of financial incentives.

Facilities at the training camp in Stone include a 25m firing range for shooting practice and a driver's cross-country training course.

For training purposes, there are six huge £200,000 SVs, a dozen £58,000 Land Rovers and two battlefield ambulances, each worth £85,000 which are specifically designed for driving cross-country.

The 4th Battalion the Mercian Regiment (4 Mercian) is the unit's Army Reserve element and is at Fallings Park, Wolverhampton.

Craftsman Jennie Bird joined 4 Mercian in 2007 after taking a



Jennie Bird – wants to be a tank driver



Lcpl Rikki Richard behind the wheel of an Army truck



On target – Lcpl Andy Bolus on the shooting range



Potential recruits can test their driving skills

motor service and repair course at the City of Wolverhampton College.

The 24-year-old, of Upper Gornal, Dudley, is hoping to get her articulated licence and be able to drive tanks.

"I could never afford to do the driving courses normally. It keeps you fit and you never know what's around the corner," she said.

Lance corporal Steve Smith, of Kidderminster, joined as a reservist soldier in 2010. The 30-year-old

also took the opportunity to go on a six-month tour to the Nad-e Ali district in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, where he helped with patrols, security and liaised with locals. He said: "It was scary but rewarding."

Corporal Sarah Horne, aged 26, of Stapleton, Shrewsbury, said: "It's changed my life for the better."

Other reservist from the Fallings Park section include Lcpl Rikki Richards, from Walsall, and Lcpl Andy Bolus, from Wolverhampton.

After completing basic training, reservist soldiers are asked to commit at least 40 days in the year to training. Anyone aged between 18 and 43 can choose to become an Army Reserve soldier and the recruits receive £300 when they sign up, £1,000 when they complete phase one of the training and a further £1,000 after the second element. They also get paid £35-a-day.

For details on the challenge, e-mail 4merc-bhq-roso@mod.uk

Armed robber is jailed for six years

AN armed robber who was part of a gang that battered its way into a couple's country home and stole their car has been jailed for six years.

The Audi belonging to Robert Nguiguti and his wife, a doctor, was taken along with keys to a BMW motorbike, a handbag with £100 and bank cards, a laptop containing private patient files and an iPod.

Levi Wilson, aged 19, of Cross Lane, Dudley, owned one of two imitation guns used to threaten the couple during the break-in near Bridgnorth, Stafford Crown Court heard.

He was found guilty of robbery, burglary and two counts of possessing an offensive weapon following a trial in March.

Wilson was jailed for three years for burglary, four years for robbery – to run concurrently – and two years for the firearms charge, to run consecutively.

Simone O'Neil, 22, of Marshall Road, Portobello, Willenhall, was jailed for 18 months for burglary.

Nicholas Alexander, 26, of Chorley Gardens, Bilston; Donovan Wilson, 18, of Cross Lane, Dudley; and Omari Maitland, 18, of Leslie Road, Wolverhampton, were cleared of the four charges they denied.

Panel seeks volunteers

AN education appeals panel is looking for volunteers to hear cases for school admissions and reviews.

It is run by Dudley Council and decides on admission appeals of pupils from primary and secondary schools and occasionally deal with reviews of governing body decisions to exclude pupils.

Panels are independent and rely on voluntary membership. Meetings are at Saltwells Education Centre in Netherton and at Dudley Council House and training is provided.

Contact Richard Sanders on 01384 815236.

Cut-price football

FOOTBALL fans are being encouraged to swap the sofa for the real thing this season with discounts on five-a-side pitches in the borough.

Dudley Leisure Centre have reduced the hire cost for its five-a-side dome from £44 to £35 per hour for the rest of 2014. Call (01384) 812800.

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Hospitals see fall in attacks on staff

ALMOST 500 assaults on NHS staff were reported at health trusts in the West Midlands and Staffordshire in a year.

The figures come from NHS Protect, which works to safeguard NHS staff and resources from crime.

Figures for the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust revealed there were 74 assaults in 2012 to 2013, of which 24 were down to medical factors.

This was down from 87 the year before. But just one resulted in criminal action, figures provided by the trust to NHS Protect reveal.

A hospital spokeswoman said: "We appreciate that violence and aggression is sometimes driven by fear or confusion, or the patient's medical condition and, as a result, our staff are very often reluctant to report incidents or take further action."

She added CCTV was in place 24 hours a day at its three hospitals, while a hospital watch scheme had been running for four years.

At Sandwell and West Birmingham Trust, which runs Sandwell General Hospital, City Hospital in Birmingham and care hubs in Rowley Regis and Leasowes, there were 198 assaults on staff – up from 180.

Crash victim inquest opens

AN ELDERLY woman killed in a three-car crash on a busy Black Country road has been named.

Mary Woodall, aged 83, died after the Kia Picanto she was travelling in was involved in a collision in Cradley Heath on May 21.

An inquest into the death of Mrs Woodall, from Rowley Regis, was opened at Smethwick Coroners Court last week. She died at the scene of the accident on Waterfall Lane.

The cause of death was recorded as fatal injuries due to road traffic collision and the inquest was adjourned.

Fair for orphans

A SPRING fair will be taking place at Cradley Baptist Church later this month.

The event will be held at the venue in Church Road on Saturday, June 28, from 1pm.

The fair will be raising money for children at a Bulgarian orphanage.

Inquiry into fatal stabbing is nearly complete



School girl Christina Edkins died aged 16

THE inquiry into the death of schoolgirl Christina Edkins is nearing completion. The agency leading the review has said it will soon show the investigation's findings to the key agencies involved.

The family of Christina, 16, who was a student at Leasowes High School in Halesowen, will also have the chance to meet the commissioner and panel members before it is published.

The inquiry involves Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust, which vowed to carry out a 'thorough investigation' following the sentencing of Christina's killer Phillip Simelane.

Simelane was released from prison unsupervised before attacking the 16-year-old on a bus in Birmingham in March last year. The 24-year-old from Walsall was detained indefinitely after pleading guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

It had been expected the review would be published by the end of last year.

Last week a spokesman for the Birmingham Cross City Clinical Commissioning Group said: "We are aware that the investigation into the circumstances leading up to the tragic death of Christina Edkins is nearing completion."

"This investigation has involved a number of key services who will shortly be asked to review the report findings and identify how learning will be embedded."

"Before agreeing the final publication date of this report, the families will have the opportunity to meet with the commissioner and panel members to discuss the findings."

Christina's great-uncle Chris Melia said the family had met with the review leaders in March and were now waiting to be invited for discussions ahead of the publication of the report.

He said: "It is very important that lessons are learned."

Anthem with passion and pride of the Black Country

by Becky Woods

THE lyrics speak with a patriotic passion to herald all that is bostin' about the Black Country.

And now people can purchase the anthem which has been adopted to help celebrate a landmark occasion.

Black Country folk band The Empty Can have today released their ode I Vow to Thee, Black Country as a charity single.

It has been named the official song for Black Country Day on July 14 and band-mates and supporters now hope the song will soar up the charts.

The song, a Black Country version of the patriotic classic, I Vow to Thee My Country, is available to buy, priced at 99p.

The band gathered at the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo to help launch the single last week.

Lead singer James Stevens, aged 37, thanked everyone who had made their dream of releasing the track possible.

Backing

And he urged everyone keen to celebrate life in the Black Country to come out and get behind the single.

"If people in the area get behind it we genuinely believe we could get the Black Country in the charts," James, from Gornal, said. "It's been a brilliant experience, we've had a fantastic Black Country backing and we just wanted to do something to feel proud about where we come from."

It has been an experience that we are very proud of going through and we have had a lot of fun and met some great people along the way.

"We know that we are going to raise some money for charity and we couldn't be more pleased now to see how it will play out."

Professional musician and youth worker James is joined in The Empty Can by Rachel Slater, 36, who is a nurse from Gornal, and 40-year-old guitarist and producer Steven Henley, from Kingswinford, who works for a local family business.

James says the Black Country Festival, an arts and music celebration to mark the day itself, has boosted awareness and support for the day.

A host of events are being organised through July, with the support of the four Black Country councils, to celebrate Black



Band members James Stevens, left, and Rachel Slater with museum guide Lindsey Cooper and Steve Edwards



Country Day. All money raised through sales of the single will go to Compton Hospice.

The charity has been chosen in dedication to Steve Evans, a former Wolverhampton City Council worker, magician, comedian and keen fisherman, who died in January, aged just 52, following a two-year

battle with stomach cancer. The original song dates back to 1921 when a poem by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice was set to music by Gustav Holst.

The reworked piece was penned after the band struck up a conversation with Steve Edwards, who runs The Only Way Is Dudley Facebook site. Steve, a factory worker from

Brierley Hill, has created a video of iconic old images of the region for the single.

He said: "People want an anthem to go with the flag and the national day that we now have on July 14 and this song is perfect."

"I would urge people to support the song and the Black Country by buying the single and helping to put us on the map."

Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "The community response to the Black Country Day activities has been huge and the idea of a Black Country anthem is something we fully support."

"We will certainly be supporting I Vow to Thee Black Country to help it hit the charts and help put the whole region on the map."

The track can be downloaded from Amazon with details and a link through www.blackcountryfestival.weebly.com

NEWS in brief

Trio art put on show at cone

A NEW exhibition by three West Midlands artists has opened in Stourbridge.

Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone is hosting the exhibition called Trio through until August 3.

It features work by former Birmingham University tutor Anne Hackett, Wolverhampton University graduate Clare Sherwen and Oldbury artist Chris Taplee.

Admission is free. The Red House Glass Cone is open from 10am to 4pm.

Round of events to mark war 100th

A COMMUNITY will be marking 100 years since the beginning of the First World War with a commemorative event.

People in Pedmore will have a day of events to mark the war's centenary at Pedmore Cricket Club, St. Peter's Church and the St. Peter's Centre on Sunday, July 13, between 2.30pm and 5.30pm.

There will be memorabilia, weapons and medals from the war on show, as well as historical information. Entry is free.

Music recital takes place at church

A CHURCH in a village near Stourbridge is staging an evening of live music featuring a piano recital.

Holy Trinity Church, Bradford Lane, Belbroughton, will host the show on July 19 at 7pm. Performances on the evening including an appearance by pianist Antonio Pompa-Baldi.

Tickets are £35 which includes supper. Call 01562 730539.

On the record trail at big fair

COLLECTORS of vinyl records will be able to bag a bargain at one of the biggest record fairs, The Big Brum, on Saturday, at the Birmingham National Indoor Arena.

Tickets costing £3 for entry between 10am to 3.30pm or £6 for early entry from 8.30am are available on 0116 275 2815 or visiting www.vip-24.com

Boot sales back

THE Wednesday morning car boot sale at Stourbridge Rugby Club is back, despite the first of the new set of sales being called off due to bad weather. Weather permitting, opening at 7am. Call 07957 399964.

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REJOICE, for the rocks beneath England appear to contain billions of barrels of shale oil. So if Scotland votes for independence and takes what remains of its North Sea oil, we've got plenty of our own. Did you ever doubt that God was an Englishman?

□□□□□□□□

AS new celebrity allegations arise, I am reminded that when I was covering magistrates' courts in the 1970s when some of these offences allegedly happened, the going rate for indecent assault was a £30 fine and a talking-to by the chairman of the bench. Prison was reserved for really serious offences and the courts had a very different idea of what constituted "serious". I once saw a man get three months for poaching rabbits.

□□□□□□□□

HERE we go. I wondered how long it would be before Education Secretary Michael Gove's ban on taking kids on holiday in term time became a human-rights issue. Sure enough a group called Parents Want A Say claims the ban infringes the right to family life in the European Convention on Human Rights. The lawyers who created the Convention must be turning in their graves. Their solemn duty, after the horror of the Second World War, was to ensure the continent was never again taken over by dictators. The right to family life was drafted to prevent husbands, sons and fathers being carted off as slave labourers. It was never designed to give families a fortnight together in Benidorm. Today the Convention has become so devalued that it is brandished by everyone from criminals who thoroughly deserve to be deported to silly pupils who don't want to wear school uniform. Now, we are told, there is a human right to term-time holidays. PlanetSKI, a website devoted to winter sports denounces Michael Gove's ban: "It is stopping families enjoying a ski holiday at times outside official school holidays and this may have a long-term impact on the future number of skiers and snowboarders." Dear God, not a national shortage of skiers and snowboarders. It is beyond parody.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Boy, 17, behind bars after racist attacks

A 17-YEAR-OLD has been put behind bars for his part in racist gang attacks.

The teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, assaulted two frail elderly men and an eight-year-old boy in a spate of four attacks in Cradley Heath and Old Hill.

At Sandwell Youth Court he was sentenced to a total of eight months' detention.

Five other boys convicted for their parts in the attacks, all aged 15 and 16 and who also cannot be named due to their ages, were given youth rehabilitation orders of various lengths and with varying conditions.

The five will all now also be electronically tagged for three months and must serve a curfew between 7pm and 7am.

Appalled

Sentencing them all, District Judge Terence English said: "I, along with any other right-thinking person, can be nothing less than appalled about the behaviour that took place in those various incidents, in a short period of time in October."

"In all but one case, all those victims who were targeted were especially vulnerable persons - in two cases two quite elderly and hardly sprightly gentlemen, and one eight-year-old boy who was coming out of the mosque accompanied by his mother."

"They were subjected to violence and/or words by some of you. The only rea-

son why those victims were targeted was because of the colour of their skin."

When being sentenced the defendant refused to allow security to handcuff him and a scuffle broke out inside the court which also included one of the other defendants, security and police.

The youth had pleaded guilty to three racially aggravated common assaults, racially aggravated criminal damage and a racially aggravated public order offence.

The other five were all found guilty after a three-day trial of various racially aggravated charges, including using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress, using such words so that people would believe violence would be used against them, and criminal damage.

How do you like this 'elfie'?



Latabe the elephant's selfie taken at the safari park

A CHEEKY elephant took a snapshot selfie after picking up an iPhone at West Midlands Safari Park.

When Scott Brierly dropped his phone at the safari park in Bewdley he thought he would have to wait for keepers to retrieve it but to his amazement African elephant Latabe picked it up.

When keepers later returned his iPhone, Scott was shocked to find that the 22-year-old pachyderm had touched the screen with her trunk, taking a picture of herself. Events manager Scott, of Birmingham, said he now has the world's only elephant selfie - an 'elfie'.

The 23-year-old said: "Me and a friend were driving past the elephant enclosure, I took a few pictures of me with one of the elephants. But when I turned back around I hit my phone on the side of the car door and it fell down onto the grass."

"The elephant was all over it, I think he thought it was food. When the iPhone came back, I pressed the centre button to check it was still working and wow there it was"

Culture festival needs beds for artists

NATIVE and adopted Brummies are needed to extend a welcome to European artists to a festival being held in the city.

Similar to the Games Makers that welcomed athletes and visitors to London 2012, volunteers are needed to look after those coming to the BE Festival of culture in July. But the volunteers for BE Festival are being asked to provide a spare room to give the visiting artists somewhere to stay.

Welcome

Performers will not need feeding or looking after, just a bed and a welcome. In return for their generosity and support, hosts will get a free festival ticket and dinner pass for the night their guest is performing.

More than 70 artists from 11 different countries will descend on Birmingham for the festival from July 2 to July 12.

BE Festival, which takes place at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre this year, is now in its fifth year and recently ranked number 11 in The Sunday Times Top 50 Festivals.

Anyone who is able to help out or would like more information about hosting festival artists should contact Helena Scott-Hardy, on Helena@befestival.org or 07809 885 235. See www.befestival.org

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Overnight motorway roadworks announced

MOTORISTS face disruption after a series of roadworks on two motorways were announced.

The Highways Agency has revealed plans for night time closures with diversions.

The southbound carriageway on the link road between M5 junction one at West Bromwich and M6 junction eight near Great Barr faced closures between 9.30pm and 5.30am this week with resurfacing works due to continue until today.

Also starting this week were roadworks on the M5 between junction one and junction two for Oldbury due to works on road signs. The slip roads will be closed overnight in both directions until June 13 between 8pm and 6am.

The Highways Agency has announced that there will be works to the overhead gantries on the M6 at junction seven for Great Barr. That was due to start yesterday and continue until Sunday.

The northbound entry slip road and the southbound exit slip road will be closed between 9.30pm and 5.30am.

The M6 will be completely shut overnight between junction 10 for Walsall to junction 13 for Acton Trussell, from tomorrow to Sunday from 10pm and 8am due to work on overhead gantries.

Teenagers are sentenced over phone robberies

A MAN and two youths have been sentenced for robberies near railway stations at Blackheath, Rowley Regis and Old Hill.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Macauley Dodd and two teenagers, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were involved in a series of robberies between December 30 last year and January 17 this year.

Dodd, 19, of Blewshill Court, Dawley, Telford, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery on December 30 last year.

He and one of the teenagers, a 17-year-old from Smethwick who also admitted the charge, punched and kicked a victim near to Old Hill railway station. They took his mobile phone. The victim suffered bruising to his face and head.

Dodd also pleaded guilty to attempted robbery on January 1.

The other teenager, a 16-year-old also from Smethwick, admitted robbery on the same date.

A £10 Nokia mobile phone was taken from the victim.

Dodd also pleaded guilty to charges of robbery and attempted robbery near to Blackheath railway station on January 11.

He also admitted possession of a knife when he was arrested by police on January 13.

The 17-year-old pleaded guilty to a further charge of robbery on January 17 when he took a mobile phone

by Lee Watton

from a victim on a bus in Oldbury. He also admitted breach of a youth rehabilitation order. The 16-year-old pleaded guilty.

Dodd was sentenced to five-and-a-half years detention and the 17-year-old three years and eight months detention.

The 16-year-old was given a detention and training order for four months.

Mr Nick Wadsworth, prosecuting, said: "These offences all took place around public transport areas. The victims say it has affected them."

The court was told on Friday the two youths both had difficult upbringings which had affected their decisions.

Mr Richard Gibbs, defending the 16-year-old, said although his client was young he was starting to see things from an adult viewpoint.

Mr Anthony Bell, defending Dodd, said his client had plans to 'make a fresh start'.

Husband donates kidney to his wife



The gift of life for a Halesowen lecturer — Mark and Sturcha with their daughter Ffion

MOST women can look forward to a bunch of flowers to mark their 10th wedding anniversary. But Mark Wynn upped the stakes — he gave his wife Sturcha one of his kidneys.

In February last year both of Sturcha's kidneys failed, resulting in her spending three days a week in hospital. She later began dialysis at home five times a week.

Mark bravely stepped forward to offer one of his kidneys and after a year of tests to check compatibility he went under the knife and gave his organ to his wife, who works at Halesowen College, last month. Both patients are recovering well at their home near Telford in Shropshire.

Sturcha, 39, said: "I didn't want to put him through an operation. But Mark was certain that he wanted to do it. It has given me my life back."

The transplant has meant Sturcha can now give more time to eight-year-old daughter Ffion and she is hoping to go back to work as a childcare lecturer at Halesowen College in September.

NEWS in brief

Speedway champ hosts starry night

A SPEEDWAY legend is hosting a night with Cradley Heathens star riders. Cradley heroes past and present are set to be special guests at the Billy Hamill evening on July 27.

Former Speedway World Champion Hamill has invited a host of riders to join him and fans at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill. Tickets are £10 and organisers have almost sold out of £25 VIP tickets. There will be souvenirs available including replica Cradley 1995 race jackets signed by Hamill to commemorate the last season at Dudley Wood. Only 20 are being produced.

Tickets are available from the club shop on race night or at Printworks, High Street, Quarry Bank, or from the club website.

Museum going back to the 1940s

VISITORS to the Black Country Living Museum will be able to experience what life was like during the war years during a special weekend of events next month.

Staff and volunteers at the Tipton Road attraction will be hosting the 1940s-themed weekend on July 19 and 20.

There will be a range of attractions and demonstrations of air raid sirens, search lights and military checkpoints. Music from the era will be performed. To book call 0121 520 8054.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

AFTER years of being told that online banking is the way to go, it now seems that there might be one significant drawback.

The computers of more than 15,000 people in the UK are already infected with a virus that could see millions of bank accounts cleared out, the National Crime Agency has warned. That's what happens when you entrust your finances to a system which is entirely revolves around the interests of the bankers.

Aside from the obvious drawback that I don't have a computer, I've never really trusted internet banking.

Why did anybody think that passing all your banking details through an international network of public computer systems, protected only by a password which is probably your dog's name, was going to be a secure way to conduct your finances?

Of course, the banks love internet accounts. It means they can sack all the staff in the branches, and provide a rudimentary customer service line from a call centre in Bombay. But what is in it for the customers?

Surely an extra £20 a year in interest is not worth exposing yourselves to the hackers.

□□□□

MAKING another comeback worthy of Sinatra, silver-haired charmer Tony Blair has stepped into the old immigration chestnut.

Actually, after spending a bit too long sunning himself in the Middle East, the former prime minister is beginning to look something like an old chestnut these days, but that is another story.

Anyway, he has accused people opposed to large-scale European immigration of pandering to unpleasant prejudice. And that the influx of workers from Eastern Europe had nothing to do with unemployment in the tougher parts of Britain.

He might have added that there were many exciting employment opportunities for out-of-work British people who were willing to travel abroad. You know, in American banking corporations, peace envoy in the Middle East, president of the European Commission, that kind of thing.

What he did say, though, was that the 'white, working-class, unemployed youth in alienated communities in Britain' were held back by their own lack of education and skills.

And there is doubtless some truth in what he says. But just one question. Who, was responsible for the education of these alienated youths for most of the last 20 years?

A fellow whose slogan was education, education, education, if my memory serves me right.



Jim Aston, from Lower Gornal



Jim and his wife Lilian visiting Monte Cassino in 2004



Jim Aston, second from right, on the front row

Jim journeys to remember battle

Veteran Jim Aston speaks to Mark Andrews about his return to Italy to remember his fallen comrades

"I was in a hotel just outside Cassino, (Italy) and I had just got off to sleep when I was woken by what appeared to be gunfire," says Jim Aston.

"I sat upright in my bed and wondered what to do next. It turned out to be a fireworks display, but I thought I was back in the war."

The flashback happened last week, during an emotional return to the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the Second World War.

Mr Aston, from Dudley, was one 14 veterans who were taken on a return visit to the battlefields of Monte Cassino, where around 14,000 Allied troops were killed during some of the fiercest fighting of the conflict.

It was a bittersweet return for the 89-year-old, who lives in Coleridge Rise, Lower Gornal with his wife Lilian and son Paul.

During the trip, he attended a service to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the battle, and he also shared a joke with Prince Harry during a reception at the British Embassy in Rome.

But he said there were also moments of sadness, as he remembered his fallen comrades, and in particular a close friend who was killed as his convoy made its way to Monte Cassino.

"When we went around the cemeteries, somebody asked me if I knew any of the people named on the grave," he says.

"I said I didn't know them personally, but I had probably seen some of their bodies."

Driver Aston, who served with the Royal Corps of Signals from 1943 to 1947, was attached to the 2nd Battalion



Jim Aston, from Lower Gornal, who has just returned from Monte Cassino

of Carpathian Rifles – a Polish unit – during the assault on the Italian town of Cassino which ended in May 1944.

The week-long trip had been organised by the Monte Cassino Society, and paid for by the Big Lottery Fund. A total of 101 went, including family members.

Mr Aston told the prince he had to travel alone because his wife had been ill and had to pull out of the trip.

"He told me not to worry, there were lots of other women around," he said.

He met the prince during a reception

it was easier to relay than repair," he said.

He said the noise from the shelling was phenomenal.

"It was deafening," he says. "We were in front of the artillery, and they were firing the shells over our heads, and the Germans were also firing them back at them. We were there, caught in the middle of all this. We weren't in any danger because the Germans were going for the positions behind us, but it was very frightening."

Sadly, one man who did not make it to the battle was his close friend Douglas Earl, a corporal who was killed at the age of 26 in a motorcycle crash.

"We were travelling in convoy, we had passed through a town called Foggia, when shortly afterwards we came to a railway level crossing," he says.

"This crossing was not manned, and did not have a barrier, also it was on a double bend in the road."

"I was driving the last truck to go over the crossing, and shortly after the sergeant rode past shouting 'Stop!'."

"We all stopped, and we were told Douglas had been killed by a train on the crossing, it was an American freight train."

"It hit me very hard at the time, we were good friends. He was a quiet man, not the regimental type of corporal, we were on first name terms."

"I later discovered his wife was expecting a baby."

During the trip he visited the Abbey at Monte Cassino, which was rebuilt after the war, and the ruined village of San Pietro Infine which was left in its bomb-ravaged state as a memorial. The servicemen were also taken to Cemetery Sangro River.

The conditions of the series of four attacks were infamously tough, with soldiers having to climb steep terrain, brave terrible weather and withstand relentless Nazi bombardments. The four-month battle was viewed by Winston Churchill as crucial in securing Italy.

POLITICS

WITH
DANIEL
WAINWRIGHT

THE task of trying to hold on to Cannock Chase next year just became a little more difficult for the Conservatives. Paul Snape, leader of the council's Tory group, claimed MP Aidan Burley had not spoken to him since February 3.

This was two days before he announced he would not be contesting the seat again in 2015, following a series of highly-critical national newspaper stories about his involvement in a stag party where he got the groom to wear a Nazi uniform.

Mr Burley denies this and says they spoke in March, although Councillor Snape says it was just an exchange of pleasantries and did not really count.

Things got very awkward for the Tories after the elections. It started with Mr Burley and his fiancée, Rawnley councillor Jodie Jones, being noticeably absent from the election count.

Then, as UKIP made enough gains to get level pegging with the Tories, Councillor Snape began to contemplate horse trading over who should be the official opposition.

Miss Jones made the decision for him, revealing she had resigned from the group to serve as an independent and plunging the Tories into third place.

Councillor Snape, meanwhile, is now preparing his group to choose a new Parliamentary candidate to replace Mr Burley. With all not well between all the Tories, the candidate who wins that selection will have one of the least enviable tasks in politics.

Firstly, they have to try to hold on to the seat that produced the biggest swing to the Tories in 2010. That will be no easy job given how Labour have not only made gains on the council but also made a huge deal of the whole unfortunate Nazi business.

Secondly, he or she will have to be able to liaise with Aidan Burley.

If he's not talking to party's local leader, that opens up the potential for a lot of mixed messages to the electorate. Thirdly, he or she will have to be nice about Aidan Burley in the face of criticism and ridicule about said stag do.

□□□□

Bill Etheridge has had a good week. Having spent years trying to get elected, including a fourth place position in the Police and Crime Commissioner vote, he's now not only a UKIP councillor in Dudley but one of three of its West Midlands MEPs.

He's adamant he'll do both jobs. But Labour councillor Pete Lowe thinks it isn't possible. He asks: "How can he do potholes from Strassbourg?" Maybe he'll have time to do council business while on the monthly trip all MEPs have to make between Brussels and Strassbourg.

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How can you take UKIP seriously?

WHAT do we know of UKIP policies, apart from their simplistic, xenophobic notion that British economic woes can be blamed on foreigners?

The situation, its causes and possible remedies are far more complex. But too many people fell for the spiel of a privately educated, former city commodities trader, who in fact prefers wine to beer, and whose wife is German.

That's fine by me - except his background and lifestyle don't match up particularly well with the image he projects, or sound-bite policies fed to the public.

After the last elections, both West Midlands UKIP MEPs fell out with the party and operated independently. Nigel Farage allied UKIP members in the European parliament with a group that included extreme far right factions. We'll have to see what Mr Farage does this time. Did voters know what they were opting for, then and now?

Locally, how does Bill Etheridge propose to represent Sedgley on Dudley Council at the same time as properly fulfilling his duties as an MEP for the West Midlands?

Yes, there are individuals who con-

tinue to hold two elected offices, but check on the statistics for their performances (attendance, voting, speeches, etc.), and it's clear both areas of responsibility are very likely to suffer. He will be handsomely paid to represent us in Europe.

In 2011, Bill Etheridge and his wife Star apparently posed for photographs holding golliwogs, as a protest against political correctness. Perhaps they should have dressed up as clowns, while they were at it? Or as children?

C A BUCKLEY
Sedgley

I want my town back not mourn

SO J Bennett suggests we shut down Dudley town centre? That's exactly what Dudley Council wants - or it certainly looks that way.

Over 25 years of under-investment and inactivity for business to relocate to Merry Hill, along with a policy of discouraging any major businesses, no wonder our town is dying.

Did you know the council had made the decision to move its strategic centre to Brierley Hill, making it the principal town of the borough, and pledging billions to join it up with Merry Hill and the Waterfront? Dudley has been relegated to serving a secondary role. Pound shops, payday loan brokers and betting shops are probably the best it can get.

Don't be fooled into thinking the council is "fighting a losing battle" to save our town centre, the truth is it's been deliberately running it down. I don't want to mourn, I just want my town back.

R W CROMPTON
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Think twice before making your vote

NIGEL Farage did well in both the local and European elections, but I would not cast my vote for them as UKIP are just another right wing "Tory Party".

People voted for UKIP because of their insistence of taking us out of Europe, but I wonder if the people who voted for UKIP would have done so if they realised that one of their policies was to privatise the NHS.

I just think about the private health service in America where one man had to sell his house because of ill health and when his money ran out was cast onto the streets to fend for himself. This alone would prevent me from ever voting for a party with such a policy.

So UKIP voters just think when you cast your vote for the party next time what policies you are voting for.

B WHITEHOUSE, Kingswinford

Lots of leaders leads to loss

HOW typical that the rank and file of the Liberal Democrats, having had a bad result, they now want a new leader - again. This party have had many more leaders than any other party have had in my lifetime. No wonder people don't take them seriously.

C HOWELLS, Wordsley

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HAS your solicitor retired or office closed?

Then it may pay you to check details of any wills made.

My mom died recently; her solicitor retired and the office closed down.

Mom received a letter from another firm informing they had all paperwork, (her will) was now with them. All that letter needed was a line saying you may need to seek legal advice on your paperwork/will.

Luckily for us she kept the letter.

The firm which now has the paperwork/will will not release it until we found details of the executor.

Now, finally I can start proceedings to 1) get will released, 2) when I have will I can start probate and get deeds to her house, and 3) mourn the loss of my mom.

No one should have this worrying problem to deal with on top of a loved one's death.

B SIMMONDS
Pensnett





Save the Date

We would like to invite you to attend the first Annual General Meeting of Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group

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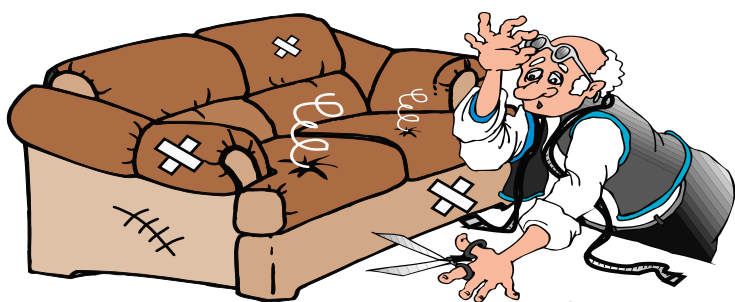
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Members given insight into Skokholm Island renovation

THE meeting was opened with the singing of Jerusalem, followed by the welcome and notices. Further information was announced regarding the July outing to the Staffordshire Lavender Fields, for a tour, demonstration and afternoon tea.

There being no further business, president Julie introduced the speaker for the afternoon Mr Keith Rowley who gave a talk with slides on the "Renovation of Skokholm Island".

Skokholm Island is a nature reserve owned by the Wildlife Trust and is situated off the south west coast of

BILBROOK WI

Wales, it is known to go back to the time of the Vikings and became a rabbit farm in the middle ages.

In 1760 a cottage was built and lived in by Ronald Lockley, who was also responsible for the very first bird observatory in the UK.

The island had been a rabbit farm since Norman times and included breeds such as the long haired and black rabbit. The cottage fell into disrepair and was renovated in the 1920s.

It has now been brought right up to date with the installation of electricity and all mod cons and last year the bird observatory was reinstated.

Keith, one of the volunteers on Skokholm, then opened the floor to questions. Treasurer Ann gave a vote of thanks for an interesting presentation.

Future speakers will be: June 16, Bert Flintcroft on "Catching Happiness" - A Poets View and on July 21 Steve Casey on John Lewis Partnership History. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month in Holy Cross Church Hall, Bilbrook Road.

Quiz night to come

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE FEDERATION

ON March 27, the South Staffs Committee organised its annual dinner. Following a late change in venue - the Compass Suites in Aldridge coming to the rescue - some 130 members enjoyed the evening and were entertained by Doug Parker.

The 85th anniversary of Townswomen's Guilds was celebrated with a Thanksgiving Service on April 7 at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford and on April 23 at Manchester Cathedral.

South Staffs stage a quiz on the June 9 at St Martin's Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Noddy's demo of working dog

WARLEY BRANDHALL TG

WARLEY Brandhall TG celebrated its 47th year in April with a party and birthday cake, arranged by Grace Kendrick and Valerie Davies.

Chairman Frances Peakman read out the jobs for the committee and said that although the membership numbers had decreased, the club was still hoping to carry on as long as possible.

Over the years, the members have raised more than £35,000 for different charities, but are now finding it difficult to raise the money, with so few members.

Dropped

In May the speaker was Yvonne with her working dog Noddy. Yvonne is helped by Noddy to take out the washing from the machine and pick up things that are dropped on the floor. Yvonne is in a wheelchair, so Noddy even takes her coat off, as He loved the fuss from the members.

Members visited the Tally Ho! Conference Centre for the Federation's Annual Lunch and was entertained by Jenny Starr with hilarious stories.

The guild meets at St Hubert's Catholic Church, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, every third Monday.

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Trooper Kirk wins his Battle of the Bulge

THE chances of Kirk Austin realising his dream of joining the Army Reserve appeared slim when he was a 19 stone lorry driver.

But three years later things looked a lot better after he had shed more than 6st in his own Battle of the Bulge.

Now the father of two from Quarry Bank is fighting fit and serving as a trooper specialising in reconnaissance with Dudley-based B Squadron of the Royal Yeomanry – previously A Squadron of the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry.

And he has not just changed his life style, he has also altered his job and is now driving buses between Birmingham, Dudley and Merry Hill for National Express.

Trooper Austin said: "It was always a bit of a dream to be in the services as my dad was in the Army. That ambition drove me on and made me focus on losing the weight.

Piled

"I changed my diet, joined a gym and started running. It took a lot of will power but having that goal really helped me to stick with it.

"The weight just piled on while I was a lorry driver because I was sitting in my cab all day and living on a greasy spoon diet. Now I am really feeling the benefit and able to do the things like doing physical activities with the kids that I always wanted to but was hampered by my size."

It was a big weight off the mind of the 6ft 1in tall former Heathfields High School pupil when he joined the Reserve—formerly the Territorial Army—last year and recently showed how life had changed for him by climbing Ben Nevis in atrocious weather condition wearing 25kg of Army kit.



Fighting fit – Trooper Kirk Austin



Kirk before the battle begin



Trooper Austin in uniform with one of the buses he drives in civvy street

The challenge raised money for the Love 2 Live charity that will be used to refurbish the garden for disabled residents at Acorn Lodge, Oldbury.

Trooper hopes to put his training into practice on operations with the Army Reserve and is looking forward to trying his hand at parachuting on an adventure training course.

He said: "I have gained a lot by join-

ing the Reserve and my new found fitness is the thing I value most.

"I would like to become a physical training instructor because it has made such a huge difference to my life."

New entrants to the Reserve are eligible for extra payments of up to £2,300 plus an annual tax-free bounty for completing minimum training.



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Tipton Sports and Social Club's committee members in 1975



The function room at Tipton Sports and Social Club in the late 1970s



One of the first pictures of the football team, in 1964



The club's three founder members, from left, Trevor Pearce, William Andrews and Raymond Cresswell

Milestone for club set up by Palethorpes pals

PROUDLY celebrating an amazing 50 years since it started is Tipton Sports and Social Club which has remained a hub of the community while other establishments have disappeared.

With a membership which has dwindled slightly over the years – at its height there were over 1,000 members – the club still boasts football, darts and dominoes teams, and there is a rich programme of entertainment.

Founding member and secretary, Trevor Pearce started off the club with two workmates, William Andrews and Raymond Cresswell, when they feared they would lose their football team as their base was being sold off.

The trio played for teams formed through their company Palethorpes Sausages. In the early 60s the club began selling off some of its land – including where the teams played at Cooney Road in Tipton.

The football team was at the time

MEMORY LANE By Adam Grinsell

playing in the Birmingham Works League, but suddenly were given a week's notice that they would no longer be able to continue.

So the three friends decided to look for land where they might be able to move the teams.

Mr Pearce, now the only surviving founder member of the club, said: "We were losing the patch of land and everything. We wrote to everyone in the area, even as far away as Stoke. There was at least 10 sites I wrote to personally to try to get the land to form a club."

The group, under the name Tipton Sports and Social Club, could use a council-owned pitch for the football team but it still needed a club house – they first moved into a room above the Boscobel Tavern, on Boscobel Street, which they rented for £1 a week.

They ran bingo sessions to amuse the 30 or so regular members, which

were mostly the players and their wives. Mr Pearce, collecting the subs, had to sit at the top of the stairs in the pub so that the others had space for their activities inside the hired room.

Eventually, running club Tipton Harriers approached the group, as its hut was on land that was also owned by Palethorpes – land which was also to be sold. Between the two clubs they agreed that Tipton Sports would buy the land, while in return for use of the building Tipton Harriers would be allowed to use the facilities as its headquarters.

The club then had a home to call its own, and Tipton Sports and Social Club was born.

As the club grew, their base improved, with a bar being installed, a car park laid, and in 1968 a new building was erected. Since then the club's home on Sedgley Road East has been significantly improved, and two years ago had a £98,000 refurbishment.

For more information on the club, including the hire of its function room, see www.tiptonsportsandsocialclub.co.uk, or call 0121 5574136 or 0121 5201754.



Children at the club get a visit from Santa in the 1970s



Tipton Sports and Social Club, situated on Sedgley Road East, which is celebrating 50 years

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It's ale change as pub becomes optician's



Front Lynda Roberts and Ann Shackleton, centre, Siamah Syed and Rahila Ahmed, back, Abbas Fazal, Tariq Mahmood and Shahid Latif

CUSTOMERS will have to get used to a different type of glasses as the ribbon was cut to official open a new opticians at the site of a former pub. Staff and dignitaries were all smiles as the Church View Vision centre launched in Old Hill ready to welcome new customers. The building has been transformed from a pub, formerly known as Satchmos, which had lain empty for several months. The bar and seating areas inside the building, on the corner of Halesowen Road and Priest Street, were stripped out to be replaced with a complete new decoration in an eye-catching orange and green colour scheme. The opticians is linked with the neighbouring Church View Pharmacy under the management of directors Tariq Mahmood and Shahid Latif. Bosses have been working hard over the past few weeks ready for the official opening to the public. They enlisted the support of ward councillor Ann Shackleton who attended to do the honours and cut the ribbon to the delight of staff. The opticians features an area to conduct eye tests, a consultation area and room to select a host of frames. Centre manager Lynda Roberts has been taken on alongside optical assistant Siamah Syed and ophthalmic optician Rahila Ahmed. Lynda, aged 48, said: "The opticians looks fantastic and we were so pleased that Ann agreed to come along."

Sunday 15th June

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Market relaunch is given approval

THE relaunch of a twice-monthly food and craft market in Stourbridge town centre has been approved by Dudley Council. Plans to set up an outdoor market were granted by the licensing committee.

The market is set to take place on the first and third Saturday of every month from 9am to 4pm and stalls will be situated near the High Street entrance of the Ryemarket shopping centre.

Details on the types and number of stalls are yet to be finalised, but the first farmers market is expected by July.

The proposals, submitted in March by LSD Promotions, received no objections and the licensing sub committee granted a 12-month licence so the firm can replace the market held near the clock in the town centre, which finished in March after a decline in numbers.

LSD Promotions has its head office in Stourbridge.

Solicitor celebrates 50 years of work



Harry Hodgkinson with his Supreme Court certificate

ONE of the Black Country's longest serving solicitors is celebrating more than half a century in the legal profession. Harry Hodgkinson, a consultant at Gill and Bassi solicitors, Great Bridge, has reflected on his five decades of representing defendants in courts around the Midlands.

The 75-year-old, from Droitwich, has represented several generations of families and now provides help to solicitors and clients. He began his career in law in 1959 as an articulated clerk working on cases in the Kidderminster area.

In 1964, he received his certificate from the Supreme Court to practise on his own and began handling cases at courts including West Bromwich and Dudley Magistrates.

"The first time I entered the court on my own was in Smethwick and I won the case. I don't think the prosecutor could believe it and I don't know if I did either, but it was a good start to what has been a long and happy career."

Mr Hodgkinson added: "I have loved my time working in and around Tipton and Great Bridge. I have always found people to be friendly, even when I've met them in the most extreme circumstances."

Redundancies at children's centres

REDUNDANCIES have been made at children's centres in Dudley as part of plans to slash £2.3million from the council budget. Just five out of 14 centre manager posts remain.

It comes after Dudley Council made a u-turn on plans to close seven of the borough's 20 centres. The proposals were shelved after thousands of people protested following the announcement.

At the time, the council said all centres would remain open for the foreseeable future but it would need to look at other ways to make savings. Five main centres have retained services while others have had their hours slashed and number of services cut as a result.

The council said five managers have been successfully appointed to the cluster centres. Four had volunteered for redundancy and one has already been redeployed into another council job. Another is in a trial redeployment role while the remaining three are seeking new positions.

Jealous lover jailed for attack on suspected 'love rival'

A JEALOUS lover who attacked a man he believed was having a relationship with his girlfriend, before warning him he would 'shoot him if he told police', has been jailed.

Richard Aston turned up at the home of the victim with an unknown man at Ashenhurst Walk in Dudley.

He attacked the victim at his home, punching him and kicking him in the head.

Miss Alka Brigue, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "The injured party

had been watching television in bed at around 11pm. He heard a knock on the door and thought it was a neighbour.

He opened the door and recognised the defendant and was pushed into the flat. He was punched in the face by the defendant and kicked in the head by both men.

"Mr Aston was told to leave the victim by the other man when it was seen he had had enough.

"Before he left the defendant told the complainant he would shoot him if he told the police."

The victim suffered cuts to his head and a fractured cheek bone in the attack, in November last year.

Aston was arrested at his home. A victim impact statement was read out where the complainant said he was scared of bumping into Aston again.

The court heard that 57-year-old Aston had had 18 previous convictions for 24 offences.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending Aston, said: "Mr Aston tells me that the injured party may have been having a relationship with his partner."

Aston, of Clent Court, Vicarage Prospect, Dudley, pleaded guilty to grievous bodily harm with intent.

He was jailed for four years and nine months and banned from contacting the victim directly or indirectly.



Richard Aston

Boot camp on way to centre

PEOPLE looking to take their exercise regime to the extreme are invited to take part in a new boot camp-style fitness session at Dudley Leisure Centre.

The hour-long weekly Boot Camp classes will start today at 5am and the intense workout will include the use of tyres and ropes. The sessions are suitable for people who are aged 16 and over and include cardio, strength, endurance and core conditioning under the guidance of a qualified instructor.

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Anyone who is looking to push their fitness levels to a higher standard can benefit from this new class."

Boot camp is £4.70 per person and is included in the Options Lifestyle membership. For more information call (01384) 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

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Hill's alive with sound of music

BRIERLEY Hill Civic Hall will be transformed into a picturesque Austrian village this week when Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society stage the ever-popular musical The Sound of Music.

The group will recreate Rodgers and Hammerstein's famous story of the Von Trapp family singers for a five-night run at the venue, which ends with two performances on Saturday.

A large cast of performers is headed by Richard Cope as Captain Von Trapp and Alex Detheridge as Maria. Two sets of youngsters playing the Von Trapp children will be performing on alternate nights.

The show runs every night until June 7 with performances starting at 7.15pm. There will be a matinee on Saturday at 2.15pm.

Tickets are priced at £10 and £11, with concessions available for under 16s. Family discounts are available.

For more details or to buy tickets call 07913 884208 or visit www.qbmts.org.uk

Tributes paid to student killed as car crashes into bus stop



Rebecca McManus, aged 21

A YOUNG woman who died when she was hit by a car at a bus stop was 'talented, warm, generous and lovely', say devastated friends and teachers.

Tributes have been flooding in for creative writing student, poet and musician Rebecca McManus.

The 21-year-old, known for wearing a trademark red beret, died at the scene of the crash on the busy Hagley Road West in Bearwood on Saturday.

Miss McManus, of Oldbury, had attended King Edward VI College in Stourbridge where she achieved four A Levels — two at A* and two at grade A — before enrolling with the University

of East Anglia in Norwich for an English literature with creative writing degree course.

Jane Salmons, English literature tutor at King Edward VI College, said Miss McManus was an outstanding young woman.

Talented

"Not only was she gifted academically, she was also a talented poet and musician," she said.

"She contributed to many aspects of college life and her warmth and generosity made her extremely popular with staff and students.

"She will be greatly missed."

Professor Peter Womack, head of the School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing (LDC) at the Uni-

versity of East Anglia, said: "Rebecca was about to complete a three-year course in English literature with creative writing."

"She was an exploring, adventurous poet, and an active and popular member of the creative writing group and the wider LDC community."

Miss McManus was struck when a red Mitsubishi vehicle mounted the pavement and crashed into a bus stop.

A second woman, also 21, who was with Miss McManus at the time of the crash which happened at 7.50pm on Saturday, is in a critical condition in hospital.

A 32-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Astle's death is linked to headers

THE family of West Bromwich Albion legend Jeff Astle have renewed calls for the Football Association to take action after new tests confirmed he died from the same disease found in brain damaged former boxers.

The 59-year-old, best remembered for scoring the winning goal at the 1968 FA Cup final, died in 2002 after being originally diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

But a doctor who carried out a re-examination of Astle's brain, after his family gave permission, now believes he suffered a progressive degenerative disease found in individuals with a history of multiple concussions and other head injury.

His daughter Dawn wants The FA to warn others. The family had feared that his death was caused by heading footballs rather than Alzheimer's disease.

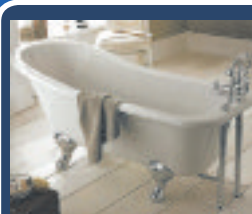
Now it has been confirmed that the England star is the first British footballer known to have fallen victim to chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) which stems from repetitive low level blows to the head.

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Square
Single
Ended Bath

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1700 x 750 x 420	£228.00	£114.00
1800 x 800 x 420	£275.00	£137.50



**SQUARE
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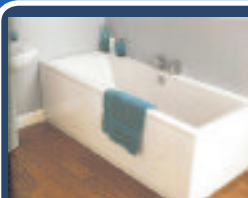
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& side panel
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1700 x 700 x 420	£209.00	£108.00



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Double
Ended Bath

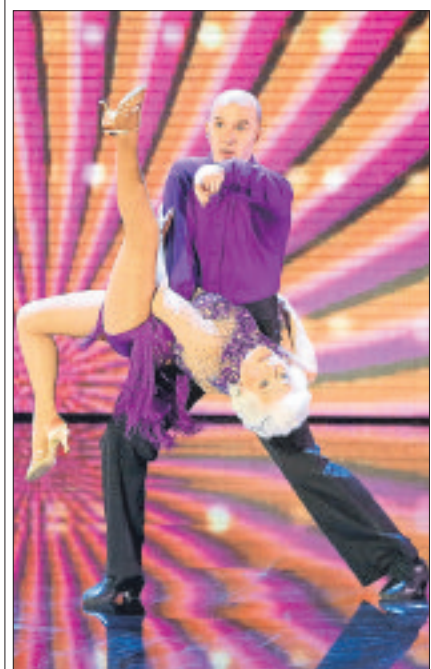
	Was	50% Off
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Paddy's sensational return to talent show



Paddy and Nico's showstopper routine on Britain's Got Talent

SALSA star Paddy Jones made a sensational return to top TV show Britain's Got Talent after recovering from injury.

The purple-clad 79-year-old, from Stourbridge, and her dance teacher Nico Espinosa were in the top three in the public vote in the semi-finals along with the swing quartet Jack Pack and 15-year-old singer songwriter Bailey McConnell.

Despite a shaky routine the judges voted three to one to put Paddy through to the final after she injured her ribs while rehearsing in Spain, putting her place in the show at risk.

She had been ruled out of the show due to her injury but at the last minute revealed she was feeling up to the high-energy routine and would be able to take to the stage.

Spain

Paddy retired to Spain several years ago and had returned there to prepare for Saturday's performance on the hit ITV1 series after her being put straight through to the penultimate round by judge Amanda Holden under the golden

buzzer rule. Paddy said: "It's quite extraordinary really. I came over here on Thursday after being unwell because I had an injury from dancing."

"I had to wait until today and then the doctor said I could compete."

"I would like to be in the final because we have had so much support from people in Great Britain and from around the world really. We would love to repay people," she added.

But it was the swing boy band Jack Pack that was the public's top choice for a safe place in the final leaving Paddy and dance partner Nico to sweat it out before the panel along with talented teen Bailey.

Simon Cowell opted for the singer but David Walliams, Alesha Dixon and Amanda Holden said the night belonged to Paddy to give her the last remaining place in Saturday's finale.

But the day before the semis Britain's Got Talent announced that after seeking medical advice, Paddy would not perform in the semi-final and unfortunately she and Nico had to withdraw.

But at the start of the live show Amanda revealed: "We didn't even know if she would be here."

"It's just a miracle. I hope that everybody is rooting for her."

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Hard-working Hannah has reached 100 year milestone

HARD work doesn't do any harm – just ask Hannah Westwood, who has celebrated her 100th birthday.

After her first job at a local penny bazaar, Hannah began working in a Birmingham factory as a welder before helping to build munitions in war time.

At her 100th birthday party at a care home in Woodsetton, her family said they believed it was this hard work that led to her long life.

Her daughter Carol Cox, aged 72 from Foxyards in Tipton, said: "She really worked hard all her life and in manually hard jobs. When she was working in Birmingham she got the trams and buses, going out and coming back at ungodly hours in the morning and night. She stopped when she had me and my sister Pat but then went back to work in factories in Sedgley and Gornal."

Born in Ruiton on May 28 1914, Hannah, who is now a grandmother of five and great-grandmother to nine, went to Upper Gornal Boarding School before leaving to go into work.

She has always lived in the Sedgley and Upper Gornal areas, where she met her husband Ben.

The couple tied the knot on October 9, 1937, at a ceremony at St Andrew's Church in Bilston Street.

Ben was the local window cleaner for more than 35 years.

They were married for 52 years before he passed away in 1989, aged 79.

Hannah celebrated her birthday at the care home, Park Lane House in Tipton Road, with family, friends and staff.



Hannah Westwood celebrates her 100th birthday in Woodsetton with family and friends

Legal team takes on wall walk for charity

A CORPORATE lawyer organised a team to walk the length of Hadrian's Wall to raise funds for charity.

However, Jamie Partington, of Higgs & Sons, Brierley Hill, who was the 2013 Birmingham Young Legal Professional of the Year, was not among the nine because of an injury. The team tackled the 84-mile route to raise money for the Willow Foundation and Macmillan Cancer Support. The group has already raised nearly £7,000 and hopes to raise more in the coming weeks.

He said: "Each member of the Hadrian's 48 team pushed themselves to the very limit during this epic task and, through the innumerable blisters, have come out on the other side with a fantastic life-lasting achievement to their name. The total time taken from start line to finish line was 40 hours and, with minor detours and zig-zagging the total mileage was clocked at 88 miles.

"All this effort was in the name of two causes very close to the group's hearts, and our sponsorship total already nears the £7,000 mark."

He is now concentrating on getting fit, so that he can complete the walk to raise even more funds.

Trader is guilty of making fake DVDs

A TRADER has been found guilty of helping to run a counterfeit DVD business in Brierley Hill that made hundreds of thousands of pounds from unsuspecting customers.

Thomas Fellows was company secretary at Sinew Enterprises Ltd, which his older stepbrother Simon Newby ran as a director. The company operated a 'counterfeiting factory' in Dudley Road.

It used various websites to sell pirated films and television series around the world, raking in thousands of pounds every week.

Between October 2008 and April 2010, one website received £242,055, all of which went straight into Newby's account.

Fellows, aged 28, of Clarence Street, Bilston, told a previous hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court that his involvement with the business was limited to processing orders and sending out invoices.

But a jury last week found him guilty of all 10 charges he faced – five of making counterfeit DVDs and another five of selling them.

Newby, who was said to have been the 'brains' of the outfit, had previously pleaded guilty to numerous charges relating to making and selling fake DVDs.

Both are due to be sentenced on June 23.

The pair were arrested following raids by Dudley Council trading standards officers at the business address and Newby's home, in Bicton Drive, Brierley Hill.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, said Newby was the 'brains' of the outfit, while

Parents bid farewell to centre manager

PARENTS and toddlers at Queen Victoria Children's Centre, Sedgley, have said farewell to the manager of six years. Gill Leach was presented with flowers from parents who described her as an 'inspiration' at the garden party.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin was invited held at the centre and said: "Gill has made a huge contribution to the centre's work she has done fantastic work to provide the level of quality childcare the Queen Victoria Children's Centre offers to local residents."

After the party Mrs Leach said: "It has always been a team effort here and today is a celebration of everything the staff and parents have achieved."

Chair of advice committee Jacqui Simmonds, 51, from Beacon Hill said: "I am gutted Gill is leaving, if it wasn't for this centre I couldn't have done the training I have. Gill is an inspiration, and I am very sad the community is losing such a valuable link."



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Famous for its fortified wine, it's a beautiful island too with cliffs and cloud forests, slopes and ravines, peaks as high again as anything in Scotland, hidden valleys and villages, plus some spectacular walking paths.

Two tours are included during the holiday. The first is a half day tour of Funchal, Madeira's capital taking in the market, the Patricio and Gouveia embroidery workshop, Se Cathedral and the Pereira d'Oliveira wine cellar with a tasting of four Madeiran wines.

Highlights of the full day western Madeira tour include the wine-making village of Estreito de Câmara de Lobos; the church in Ribeira Brava; a visit to a banana plantation; the Paul da Serra central plateau – a UNESCO World Heritage Site; plus the famous Laurisilva laurel forests.

There is also a half day Quintas Garden tour comprising the botanical garden of Quinta do Bom Sucesso with 35,000m² of grounds and an enormous variety of tropical plants and birds, as well as the Quinta Jardins do Lago, with its 2.5 hectares of blooms.

Three free days to explore at leisure are also on the itinerary along with the chance to join an optional tour.

INFO

- Return flights
- Seven nights 4-star hotel accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets
- Included drinks during meals (limited to aperitifs local wine and beer, soft drinks and local spirits)
- Tours of Funchal and Western Madeira
- Visit to Quintas do Bom Sucesso botanical gardens
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782, ATOL 6081)

Farnborough Air Show

Two days departing July 19



PRICE FROM **£159.⁹⁵***

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- General admission ticket to the Farnborough International Air Show
- Visit to Warwick
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

*£40 discount for children under 15

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

London Eye and Thames River Cruise

Two days departing Aug 2 and 30, Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 13



PRICE FROM **£149.⁹⁵**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation at a four-star outer London hotel
- Flight on the London Eye
- Cruise on the River Thames
- Free time in London
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTA Y5914)

Jersey

Four to eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£265**

- Return flights
- Bed and breakfast accommodation at the three-star Mayfair or Metropole hotel
- One item of checked-in baggage per person
- Upgrade to half-board offered
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Modern Hotels (ABTA V3101, ATOL 0752)

Emmerdale and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing September 19



PRICE FROM **£139**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Emmerdale country, Last of the Summer Wine country and the Yorkshire Dales
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

The Tall Ships Regatta at Royal Greenwich

Two days departing September 6



PRICE FROM **£99**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Royal Greenwich for the Tall Ships Regatta
- Visit to Royal Windsor
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Isle of Wight and Osborne House

Three days departing September 26



PRICE FROM **£179**

- Return coach travel and ferry crossings
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Osborne House and Queen Victoria's private beach
- Visits to Yarmouth, Alum Bay, Godshill, Newport and Ryde
- Optional Carisbrooke Castle excursion
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament

Two days departing Aug 9 and Sept 27



PRICE FROM **£139**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation at a three-star outer London hotel
- Entrance to Buckingham Palace including the Royal Childhood Exhibition
- Entrance and guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Yorkshire Cruise and Steam

Three days departing September 26



PRICE FROM **£169**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Cruise on the Leeds Liverpool Canal
- Journey on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway
- Coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales
- Visits to Holmfirth, Skipton, Grassington and Haworth
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Classical Spain

Seven days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£569**

- Return flights
- Six nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided tours of Seville and the Alhambra Palace in Granada
- Visits to Cordoba and Ronda
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Normandy by Eurostar

Five days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£489**

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
 - Return rail connection to London (selected dates)
 - Return coach transfers overseas
 - Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation
 - Guided historic walk of Rouen
 - Visits to the Bayeux Tapestry, the port of Honfleur, Benedictine Palace plus Arramanches and the Second World War D-Day beaches
 - Services of a tour manager
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)

The Battlefields of World War One

Four days departing September 26



PRICE FROM **£209**

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full programme sightseeing the Somme and Ypres Salient
- Entrance to the Historial de la Grande Guerre museum
- Entrance to the In Flanders Field museum
- Visit to the Menin Gate
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)



SANDWELL NEEDS **YOU** TO RECYCLE MORE...

During the First World War food waste was a major issue. It was vital for families to be very careful with what they had and throw away as little as possible.



Now, 100 years later, food waste is STILL a major issue. We throw away seven million tonnes of food from our homes every year – most of which could have been eaten. This costs the average family £700 a year – £60 a month – and is bad for the environment too.

By using your food waste bin you'll save money by seeing how much you throw away. This could help you buy less and save money in the future. It also keeps your council tax bills down as it means the council won't have to pay expensive landfill taxes.

During these difficult times it's important to make every penny count, so we want the people of Sandwell to show some of that war time spirit and do their bit to not waste food.

Food

1. Buy it with thought
2. Cook it with care
3. Serve just enough
4. Save what will keep
5. Eat what would spoil
6. Home grown is best
7. Recycle the rest

Don't waste it!



Recycle for Victory

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ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES
AND RECYCLE MORE...

Cans, plastic packaging, cartons, paper, cardboard, glass jars and bottles



www.sandwell.gov.uk/recycling

You  do it!



City cycle ride is axed despite grant

A CYCLE event in Bir-
mingham has been axed
despite council bosses get-
ting millions of pounds to
promote cycling in the city.
The Birmingham Sky
Ride was one of dozens of
similar events across the
country. Council bosses
said it would not take place
in the city this year as of-
ficials could not find a suita-
ble date and route.

The city got a £17 million
Government grant to cre-
ate a safer cycle network.
The council said: "Our
partnership with British
Cycling is particularly im-
portant. We are working
with them to establish a
new route and date for the
Sky Ride event in 2015."

Sewer blockages are up by 50 per cent in Black Country

**SEWER blockages in part of the Midlands
have increased by 50 per cent over the last
four months according to new figures.**

Bosses at the water firm Severn Trent say house-
holders in the Black Country are putting everything
from nappies and razors to medicines and oil down
their plugholes and toilets.

As a result the company
says it has seen a spike of
50 per cent in blocked sewers
between November last
year and March. They had
207 reports of blockages in
November while a total of
312 blockages were reported
in March. Residents are now
being urged to dispose of
household items properly
rather than via their sinks
and toilets.

Fats

Severn Trent Water waste
water manager, James
Jesic, says: "Sewer block-
ages in the Black Country
have increased by a huge
number over the last few
months. This is caused by
people putting things down
their toilets and sinks which
they're not supposed to.

"Sewers are only designed
to cope with toilet paper
and human waste. So some
of the things people throw
down the toilet, like sani-
tary products or nappies,
can easily snag on the inside
of a pipe and block it.

"Some of the sewer pipes
are only a few inches wide,
any fats or oils that peo-
ple throw down their sink
can build up on the inside

by Adam Thompson

of it, clogging it up, even if
they rinse it off with boiling
water."

He said that there are
examples where the block
sewers have caused sewage
to pour into the road.

Mr Jesic added: "When a
sewer is blocked the waste
has to go somewhere. This
means it usually comes out
of a drain and can flood
roads, or even properties
with sewage. During wet
weather as we've been see-
ing recently, it's even more
likely. As well as being ex-
tremely unpleasant for our
customers, it also ends up
costing money to unblock,
which is money we can't re-
invest elsewhere.

"But all this can easily be
avoided, by people disposing
of items in the bin, and not
the toilet or sink."

The company has pub-
lished a list of items that
it wants people to dispose
of via a bin. It includes fat,
oil and grease, kitchen roll,
cleansing wipes, cotton
wool, nappies, razors, me-
dicines, car oil, paint thinner
and other chemicals, dental
floss, underwear and tights.

Donation is just the 'wicket' for club



Police hand over a cheque for £1,000 to Old Hill Cricket Club, which is on the road to recovery after a robbery

A CRICKET club in the Black Country
that was targeted by masked raiders
has been given a help on the road to
recovery thanks to a cash boost from
a police fund.

Old Hill Cricket Club in Cradley
Heath has been given a £1,000 cash
donation from West Midlands Police
using money gained from the Police
Property Act (PPA), a fund of money
obtained through the sale of stolen
property which has been in the pos-
session of the police for more than 12
months.

The club will be investing the money
donated by officer into new nets that
will be used by young players honing
their skills for county and district com-
petitions.

Nearly two months ago on April 13
terrified staff and customers at the
club were locked for an hour inside a
freezing cellar by four masked robbers
who threatened them with a screw-
driver and stole personal possessions,
spirits and cash from the club.

The four robbers were all in their
20s and wore scarves across their

faces, gloves and dark coloured hooded
tracksuits.

PCSO Adam Blackford visited the
club to hand over a cheque from the
PPA.

He said: "I am delighted to be donat-
ing this money to a group which has
such a positive effect for youngsters in
our local community.

"This club gives young people a fan-
tastic opportunity to get involved in a
positive sporting activity, whilst learn-
ing discipline and increasing determi-
nation and fitness."

Schools in Sandwell don't meet key targets

ALMOST half of Sandwell's
secondary schools are per-
forming below the national
average.

Ofsted statistics show 46
per cent fall below the na-
tional benchmark of 72 per
cent rated good or outstand-
ing – a trend repeated across
the Black Country and Staf-
fordshire.

The figures relate to the
watchdog's crucial rating of
the overall effectiveness of a
school.

They show that only
54 per cent of schools in
Sandwell hit this target.

But the statistics also
showed Sandwell did not
have a secondary school
rated as inadequate, which
is the bottom of the stand-
ards table.

In Dudley the number of
top rated schools is just 45
per cent, whilst the figure
is 65 per cent in Walsall,
68 per cent in Staffordshire
and 69 per cent in Wolver-
hampton.

Headteachers said figures
should not be the only way
to mark performance and
standards for pupils. Pank
Patel, headteacher at Wood
Green Academy in Wednes-
bury, rated outstanding
on three occasions, said:
"We've got to be very care-
ful on damning schools that
are working really hard at
improving. Standards are
improving at a drastic rate.
Schools are now working
more collaboratively."

When statistics were com-
piled in December, 10 per
cent of Dudley's secondaries
were classed as inadequate.

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
Single room supplements apply. for all breaks

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Traditional pub is relaunched

CASK ales and cobs are back on the menu after a traditional pub reopened its doors. The Waggon and Horses in Stourbridge underwent a £50,000 refurbishment to bring the historic building on Worcester Street back to its former glory.

The building had stood empty for four months after time was called on a vegetarian cafe bar operating there in October 2013. It was known as David Murphy's but closed after going into administration.

Now the revamped pub has welcomed its first customers as part of the official reopening newly-wed landlords, Dan and Amy Wilkes, said had been 'fantastic'. The couple, who have two children, took on a five year lease at the three-bar pub after it was bought in March by two directors of Envile Ales, Jerry Hedges and Owen Lawson.

Anger as McDonald's is granted 24-hour opening

A MCDONALD'S fast food outlet will open 24 hours a day despite objections from neighbours who claim the site has made their lives a nightmare.

The burger joint on Dudley Road, Kingswinford, had closed at 1am but the restaurant has been granted permission to open around the clock. Dudley Council's licensing committee approved a proposal to extend the hours despite residents complaining that late night diners had brought intimidation, litter and vandalism to their doorsteps. A review of the all night licence will be heard in six months.

On granting the licence, committee chairman Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We have taken a long time to decide and have taken the residents' complaints very seriously, which is why we have placed a six month review on granting this change. Residents must keep a log of any incidents and contact both McDonalds and the relevant authorities with any problems."

An application to open until 5am was rejected in 2008 but in June 2013 the restaurant was permitted to open until 1am.

Mr Trevor Hall, Tim Hall and Dean Rock, residents living on Dudley Road objected. Mr

Rock, who lives closest to the restaurant said: "I already have trouble with drivers parking in front of my house with music blaring. It is a nightmare. I have suffered verbal abuse from youngsters and have found milkshakes thrown up my fence. I constantly find sauce pots and wrappers in my garden and anti-social behaviour has included my family being threatened by gangs of kids."

The expansion will see up to 15 jobs created and barrister Naomi Gillchrist, for McDonald's, said no one had raised issues about anti-social behaviour with the firm.

Water works scheme starts

MOTORISTS were being warned of disruption after work began on a £160,000 scheme to replace water pipes through a village near Stourbridge.

Thousands of feet of underground pipes will be overhauled in Clent by Severn Trent Water during a scheme anticipated to run into July.

Water pipes will be replaced in Woodman Lane and Oldnall Lane.

Bosses from the water company said they have written to residents to explain the works and apologise over any disruption.

Severn Trent Water's programme manager Jonathan Tait said part of the the roads will be closed off during the works by contractors Amey.

Simples life for Oleg and Boris



Visitors can compare the meerkats with the new arrivals at Dudley Zoo

AHHHH... it's a simples life for the latest baby meerkats who have just been introduced to visitors at Dudley Zoo.

Oleg and Boris, who are just one month old, are already delighting visitors with their antics.

The youngsters were born on April 20 and are now venturing out into their Tecton enclosure under the watchful eye of adults, who make up the zoo's 16-strong meerkat community, known as a mob.

Jill Hitchman, head of media and communications at the Castle Hill site, said: "Both babies are doing very well and are getting a little bolder every day.

"They are still very much under the guidance of the adult females but they have settled in and are making the most of the sunshine. You can't really tell when a female is pregnant, and because they usually

give birth underground, you never really know when a pup is on the way, so this has been a lovely surprise."

The gestation period for meerkats is around 77 days The pups open their eyes at 10-14 days but will not leave the burrow until they are around one month old when other females will help raise them.

The popularity of the creatures has rocketed since the launch of the www.comparethemarket.com television adverts featuring the cute characters and their now famous catchphrase 'simples'.

The zoo receives hundreds of inquiries about sponsor and adopter packages, with meerkats among the top five favourites.

Olga and Boris will join George, Alexander and Louis, meerkat pups who were born last year and named in honour of the new royal baby.

A clearer view of glasswork history

AMBLECOTE History Society is holding a meeting on Wednesday at the Ruskin Glasshouse Arts Centre about recent discoveries at the site.

Archaeologist Kate Page-Smith from Nexus Heritage will talk about finds on the site of the Ruskin Glasshouse Centre where the Webb Corbett and Royal Doulton works once stood.

A dig at the north end of the Ruskin Centre car park exposed part of a glass making cone, possibly the first on the site dating back to 1691, as new light has been shed on the early days of the glass industry.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Lehr Studio at the Ruskin centre in Wollaston Road, Amblecote. Visitors are welcome, there is a charge of £2.

For more information call Mike Perkins (01384) 824894 or see the www.amblecotehistorysociety.org.uk website.

Inspired by the Marines

A ROYAL Marines-inspired fitness class has started — aiming to help people burn body fat and change their metabolism.

The Metafit training system session takes place at the Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge every Monday from 7.20am to 7.50am.

Created by a former Royal Marine Commando, the class is described as suitable for all fitness levels with a varied programme and up-to-date training techniques to boost motivation.

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What's On!

Kloot singer in solo gig at Robin

ONE of Guy Garvey of Elbow's favourite singer/songwriters, Mancunian John Bramwell, from Mercury Music Prize nominated trio I Am Kloot, is in concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Wednesday, June 11.

With a knack for eloquent melancholy, Bramwell has fronted I Am Kloot since 1999 and the group has released six studio albums, three of them produced by Garvey. Bramwell has a new live solo album, *Live At The Trades*, out.

I Am Kloot also wrote music for BBC TV drama *From There To Here*.

Bramwell's seated show starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £15 in advance (£16 door). Call 01902 401211.

Solihull is to go psychedelic

THE festival season is under way with new event the Lunar Festival taking place on the rural fringe of Birmingham this weekend.

The line up shows a tendency towards psychedellic and folk music with headliners including British Sea Power tomorrow night, 1960s Sunshine Superman Donovan on Saturday and Texan collective The Polyphonic Spree on Sunday. Acts also include Tim Burgess of The Charlatans, Temples and Scott Matthews from Wolverhampton. It's at the Umberslade Estate at Tanworth in Arden, near Solihull. See lunarfestival.co.uk.

Happy Days are here again as the Fonz bursts into song

Paolo's Scottish passion

Paolo Nutini, Wolverhampton Civic Hall SCOTTISH singer-songwriter Paolo Nutini has made the transition from scruffy teenaged charmer to a soul singer. Hunched over his microphone, eyes half-closed, his sandpaper and velvet vocal oozed passion as fans soaked up songs from a three album career that began with *These Streets* in 2006.

The five year gap between *Sunny Side Up* and his latest, *Caustic Love*, did plenty to whet the appetite as the 27-year-old performed for a full house on Friday. The soul numbers really impressed, including *Better Man*, Diana and, dedicated to his mother, *Looking For Something*. The set closed with the fervent *Iron Sky* then Nutini returned for a mash up of *Jenny Don't Be Hasty* with *New Shoes*, ending aptly with *Last Request*. LB



Soulful singing from Paolo Nutini seen in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall

IT'S a big week for musicals coming up with a new show based on a much-loved TV series from the 1970s and a Rodgers and Hammerstein classic.

Sugababe Heide Range, Emmerdale's Ben Freeman and Eurovision winner Cheryl Baker will be joining forces for *Happy Days: A New Musical*, bringing the King of Cool Arthur 'The Fonz' Fonzarelli to the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

West End leading man Freeman will be putting on the leather jacket and stepping into Henry Winkler's biker boots as Fonzie, Bucks Fizz singer Miss Baker will be Mrs Cunningham and Miss Range the glamorous Pinky Tuscadero in musical set in rock 'n' roll era America.

The rest of the Cunningham clan and other favourite characters from the series, including Ralph, Potsie and Chachi, feature in a story about them trying to save their beloved diner Arnold's from demolition.

The show has been written by creator of the original TV show Garry Marshall, who has also become a top movie director with such hits as *Pretty Woman*, *Beaches* and *The Princess Diaries 1 and 2*. The original music is from Paul Williams, the creator of *Bugsy Malone* and songwriter of some of The Carpenters' biggest



The stars of Happy Days

hits. Original Fonzie, Henry Winkler, is a creative consultant to ensure it gets the Fonzie thumbs up.

The second city's own Birmingham Musical Theatre Company head for Bali Hai when they stage *South Pacific* at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. The show featuring such songs as *There Is Nothing Like A Dame*, *Happy Talk* and *Some Enchanted Evening* has Abigail Wells as Nellie Forbush.

Stage is set for powerful dramas

SHAKESPEARE theatre group Propeller perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* today and on Saturday evening at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre. Then *A Comedy of Errors* tomorrow night and at Saturday matinee.

Birmingham Rep hosts a play about domestic violence, *Stay*, at sold-out venue The Door on Monday. *Pests* by Vivienne Franzmann, about drug-addict sisters, is staged at The Door from Wednesday to Saturday.

Tangible Things, a new play by Matt Beames, shows a modern man in rebellion against the electronic age at Wolverhampton University's Arena Theatre tomorrow and Saturday evening.

Soul Legend with a date at the NIA

SOUL singer John Legend has announced a Birmingham concert as part of his UK tour this autumn.

The Grammy award winner has topped the charts in his native US and scored a top ten hit in the UK with the single *All of Me* with his fourth album, *Love In The Future*, selling over half a million units in the UK.

He will be at Birmingham NIA on Sunday, October 12, where tickets range in price from £37.10, £42.70 & £56.70.

Tickets available at www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000.

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Ant & Dec

Britain's Got Talent: Live Final (ITV, 7pm)
After weeks of tough auditions and five fiercely competitive semi-finals, the national talent search comes to a close as the remaining contestants perform one last time. The hopefuls all have one simple aim – to win a coveted slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance and get their hands on the £250,000 cash prize. All they have to do is impress the voting public, as the opinions of judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon count for nothing - who wins is entirely down to the viewers at home. Plus, Little Mix perform their new single Salute with a special routine by Diversity, and there's also music by another big-name act. Presented by Ant and Dec. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigellissima. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.00 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wigan Warriors v Castleford Tigers (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 A Question of Sport. (R) 5.00 Live Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Qualifying. Coverage from the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal (Start-time 6.00pm).
7.20 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
7.40 Pointless Celebrities: World Cup Special. Alexander Armstrong hosts an edition featuring contestants with links to the famous football tournament. The pairs are English World Cup-winning duo Geoff Hurst and George Cohen, Peter Shilton and Steve Bull, who both represented England in 1990's tournament, former footballer Graeme Le Saux and commentator Jonathan Pearce, and Hope Powell and Casey Stoney, representing the women's game. All are trying to score the fewest points possible by giving the least obvious correct answers to questions posed to 100 people before the show and win big for their chosen charities. Last in the series.
8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Jenni Falconer presents the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
9.20 Casualty. A fire in a care home for the elderly puts Rita on the spot. Lily helps a man with toothache face up to the real cause of his pain and Connie questions Zoe's competence.
10.10 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Dermot's pre-marriage nerves get the better of him, so he locks himself away in a cupboard. (R)
11.00 Live at the Apollo. Andy Parsons hosts the stand-up show recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo, inviting comedians Andrew Lawrence and Milton Jones to share their light-hearted views on modern life. (R)
11.30 Film: Poseidon. (2006) Remake of 1970s disaster movie The Poseidon Adventure, starring Kurt Russell and Richard Dreyfuss.
1.00 Weather. 1.05 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.10 Film: They Live By Night. (1948) 7.45 Great British Menu. (R) 8.45 Great British Menu. (R) 9.45 World Cup Films. 11.20 Wimbledon Classics. 1.20 Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Second Practice. 2.55 Live Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Third Practice. 4.05 Walrus. Two Tonne Tusker – Natural World. (R) 5.05 Antiques Road Trip. (R)
6.05 Flog It! Michael Baggott and Philip Serrell value antiques in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, while Paul Martin heads for a mill to learn about James Lewis's large snuff-box collection. (R)
7.00 The Summer Exhibition: BBC Arts at the Royal Academy. Kirsty Wark, Alastair Sooke and Morgan Quaintance attend the private view of the open-entry art show, talking to artists Bob and Roberta Smith, Conrad Shawcross and Yinka Shonibare.
8.00 Yes, Prime Minister. Jim gets wind of a major financial scandal in the City that is bound to have damaging repercussions for the government. With the party conference looming, he decides it's time for him to take swift and firm action – but Sir Humphrey has other ideas. (R)
8.30 I Love 1980. Actor Larry Hagman presents a look back at the highs and lows of the year's pop culture, including the shooting of his character JR in Dallas and the success of musical Fame. (R)
10.00 French and Saunders. Comedy sketches and parodies by comedy duo Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders. (R)
10.30 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV. Comedy sketches written by and starring Victoria Wood, with Julie Walters, Celia Imrie, Duncan Preston and Susie Blake. (R)
11.00 TOTP2: Duran Duran Special. Mark Radcliffe introduces the memorable Top of the Pops performances by Duran Duran, including Girls on Film, My Own Way, Hungry Like the Wolf, Rio, The Reflex, Wild Boys and Notorious. (R)
11.30 TOTP2: Wham! Special. Mark Radcliffe introduces a selection of Top of the Pops performances by the duo, including Club Tropicana, Bad Boys, Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go, Freedom and Edge of Heaven. (R)
12.00 Film: Deadly Pursuit. (1988) 1.45 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Animals. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.20 Digimon Fusion. (R) 7.45 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.00 Adventure Time. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 ITV News; Weather. 11.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 12.25 Storage Hoarders. (R) 1.30 Live French Open Tennis. John Inverdale presents coverage of the women's singles final from Roland Garros, where the second Grand Slam tournament of the year takes place. Subsequent programmes subject to change. Coverage continues on ITV4. 5.35 National Programme ; Weather. 5.45 ITV News; Weather.
6.00 Let Me Entertain You. Viewers' videos for Taylor Swift and Rizzle Kicks hits. Last in the series.
6.30 New You've Been Framed! Comedian Harry Hill puts his own spin on viewers' clips. Tonight, exploding toilets, airborne chainsaws and a cat that can play the drums, plus a rare glimpse of Daniel Vader on the loo.
7.00 Britain's Got Talent: Live Final. The remaining acts face their biggest challenge yet as they perform for public votes one final time, and Little Mix sing Salute with a routine by Diversity. Last in the series.
9.30 Live International Football. England v Honduras (Kick-off 9.45pm). Coverage of the friendly at the Sunlife Stadium in Miami, as England play their final match before their World Cup opener against Italy. England have never met tonight's opponents before, but will be looking to put in a strong performance against one of the lesser-experienced sides participating in the tournament in Brazil, which begins on Thursday. While Roy Hodgson's men will expect a morale-boosting result, the Hondurans will also see this encounter as ideal preparation for the tournament, having been drawn in Group E alongside France, Switzerland and Ecuador, with their first match being against the French on June 15. Presented by Adrian Chiles, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Andy Townsend, and analysis from Glenn Hoddle, Lee Dixon and Ian Wright.
12.15 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) 6.30 Trans World Sport. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Weekend Kitchen. 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The Derby. Including the 4.00 Investec Derby (1m 4ft). 4.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.25 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.00 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke revisits retired police officer Mark Rand and his wife Pat, who took on the restoration of the Grade II-listed water tower at Settle station in North Yorkshire. Two years after the project started, the architect wants to see if the couple have succeeded in transforming the tower into a suitable home. He also meets train enthusiast and former politician Michael Portillo, who was instrumental in saving the Settle to Carlisle line during his tenure as transport minister. Last in the series. (R)
8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Tim and Philomena O'Donovan, who are trying to convert a lifeboat station in Tenby, Pembrokeshire, into a contemporary home and preserve the historic building for posterity. A weather-worn, rusting and rotting hulk that was never designed for habitation, it is perched on a steel pier 40ft above the sea and can only be reached by crossing the sandy beach at low tide. (R)
9.00 Film: My Sister's Keeper. (2009) A couple whose daughter develops leukaemia have a second child to eventually provide a donor organ for her sister. However, as the younger child enters her teens and learns why she was born, she rejects the arrangement and hires a lawyer to seek legal separation from her parents. Drama, starring Cameron Diaz.
11.05 Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2014. Entertainment extravaganza from the O2 in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital, with an all-star line-up featuring Adam Hills, John Bishop, Aisling Bea, Jo Brand and Kevin Bridges. (R)
1.35 Film: Reno 911! Miami. (2007) 3.00 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.05 SuperScrippers. (R) 5.20 Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) 10.35 Access. 10.50 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Tait. (R) 11.50 Big Brother: Power Trip Launch. (R) 1.15 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.15 NCIS Movie: Judgement Day. (R) 4.00 Film: Columbo: Ransom for a Dead Man. (1971) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.
6.00 Film: Jesse Stone: Innocents Lost. (2011) The police chief is forced into retirement, but continues his own discreet investigations into the death of a teenage girl and a convicted murderer he believes to be innocent. Meanwhile, his former colleagues on the force struggle to cope with his replacement. Detective thriller, starring Tom Selleck and Kathy Baker. Edited for violence.
7.35 5 News Weekend.
7.40 NCIS. A marine is found with a gunshot wound six years after disappearing in Afghanistan, and the team discovers he vanished while carrying out an undercover mission. (R)
8.35 NCIS. The agents reluctantly team up with the coast guard to investigate the apparent murder of a Navy diver who was trying to recover a sunken ship and its treasure. With Mark Harmon. (R)
9.30 Big Brother: Power Trip. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.30 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Rylan Clark and Iain Lee analyse the housemates' behaviour, with the help of psychologists, body-language experts and new regular panellist Luisa Zissman.
11.30 Street Crime UK: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis joins police forces across the nation to discover how CCTV and technological advances are helping to fight the huge rise in street crime. (R)
11.55 Access.
12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Illegal Immigrant & Proud. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.30 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You 7.30 Doctor Who 8.15 Top Gear 9.20 Film: Father of the Bride Part II (1995) 11.00 Family Guy 12.50 American Da! 1.35 Backchat World Cup Special 2.20 Badtux 2.50 Russell Howard's Good News 3.20 Sweat the Small Stuff 3.50 Great TV Mistakes 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Amazon Abyss 8.00 The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion 9.00 Wallander 10.25 Rome's Lost Empire 11.55 Top of the Pops: 1979 12.40 The Genius of David Bowie 1.40 Amazon Abyss 2.40 The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion 3.40 Close
ITV2
11.55 Farewell Tina 12.25 Take Me Out 1.35 I Wanna Marry "Harry" 3.30 You've Been Framed! 4.35 Film: Twister (1996) 6.50 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi (1983) 9.30 Britain's Got More Talent 10.30 TV 00 11.00 Film: Shaun of the Dead (2004) 1.05 Viral Tap 1.45 Britain's Got More Talent 2.35 You've Been Framed! 3.00 Teleshopping
ITV3
1.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 3.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 1.05 Judge Judy 1.50 Movies Now 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
1.40 Magnum, Pt 2 4.00 Film: Dunkirk (1958) 5.30 Live French Open Tennis. Continued coverage of the day's play at Roland Garros. 7.00 Hornblower 9.00 TT 2014 10.00 Film: A Dangerous Man (2010) 12.00 Grand Prix Racer 1.00 TT 2014 2.00 Nitro Circus 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 5.00 Teleshopping
E4
1.00 How I Met Your Mother 2.00 The Big Bang Theory 3.00 Movie in Chelsea 4.00 Youngers 4.35 Rude(ish) Tube 5.30 How I Met Your Mother 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film: Black Knight (2001) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory 11.55 The Interwebners 1.00 How I Met Your Mother 2.00 The Ricky Gervais Show 3.00 The Cleveland Show 3.45 Glee 4.30 Ugly Betty
Film4
1.00 Meet Dave (2008) 2.55 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) 5.40 The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (2008) 8.50 Grace of Monaco Interview Special 9.00 Priest (2011) 10.45 Sorority Row (2009) 12.40 Weekender (2011) 2.25 Iris (2006) 4.00 Close

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T. Hadley & Co was founded in 1895 by Thomas Hadley, then passed to his grandson Les Hadley in the late 1940's. The company was purchased by local funeral director Trevor Hickton in 1987 after a long standing professional relationship between Les and Trevor.

After being located in New John Street, Blackheath since the early 1900's, the office was relocated to more prominent position in Blackheath High Street in 2010.

Melanie Unwin Dip.FD was given the position of Branch manager and oversees the day to day running of the office as well as looking after the families on the day of the funeral, she is assisted by Funeral Administrator Angela on a daily basis.

As a funeral directors we offer a wide selection of funeral services throughout Blackheath, Rowley Regis, Hurst Green , Sandwell, Dudley and all surrounding areas. You can reach us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and we will always assist you with your funeral service needs.

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CHOICE



Dermot O'Leary

Soccer Aid 2014 (ITV, 6pm)

Dermot O'Leary presents the pre-match build-up and the big game in aid of Unicef, which sees footballing heroes team up with celebrities for an England v Rest of the World match live from Old Trafford (Kick-off 8.00pm). Robbie Williams captains the England team, managed by Sam Allardyce and featuring former professionals such as David Seaman, Teddy Sheringham and Jamie Redknapp, plus stars including Jack Whitehall and Ollie Murs. Jose Mourinho manages the opposing side, which calls upon the talents of Alessandro Del Piero, Andriy Shevchenko and other pros, lining up with captain Michael Sheen and a squad featuring Gordon Ramsay and James McAvoy. Kirsty Gallacher is pitchside with the players.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Pentecost 2014. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Countryfile. (R) **2.15** Best of Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.40** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **4.10** Points of View. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Countryfile.

6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.20 Live Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix. Coverage of the seventh round of the season, staged at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, Montreal (Start-time 7.00pm). Michael Schumacher has won this race on seven occasions, with Lewis Hamilton the most successful of the current drivers, and the Mercedes man will be heavily fancied to win here for the fourth time and continue his title charge. Presented by Suzi Perry, with commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard.

9.00 Quirke. As his family life unravels, and grief and drink begin to take their toll, the pathologist is more than receptive to a request from his daughter Phoebe, who asks for his help in the search for her missing friend April, who hasn't been seen in more than a week. He begins to fear she has come to harm when he discovers blood in her flat, but when he tells her well-connected family, the Latimers, their response is not what he was expecting and they close ranks. Quirke pursues his enquiries and finds himself in a world where race and class are the determining factors. Last in the series.

10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.55 Kris: Dying to Live. Documentary following Kris Hallenga, who was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer at the age of 23, as she battles her illness and promotes her charity Coppafell.

11.55 Film: Taken in Broad Daylight. (2009) A teenage girl who is kidnapped and held hostage for six days. However, far from cracking up during her traumatic experience, she keeps her wits about her, manipulating her captor and leaving subtle clues for the police to ensure rescue as the abductor moves her across state lines. Fact-based thriller, with Sara Canning, James Van Der Beek, LeVar Burton and Diana Reiss.

1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Desert Passage. (1952) **7.00 Film:** Wagon Train. (1940) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** World Cup Films. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Great British Menu. (R) **3.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Bradford Bulls v Warrington Wolves (Kick-off 3.30pm). **5.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. Gabby Logan spends a day with England hockey captain Catherine-Walsh.

6.00 Ice Age Giants. Alice Roberts examines the latest discoveries from the northern hemisphere to shed light on the lives and habitats of the creatures that dominated the planet 40,000 years ago. She begins by heading to North America, which was home to a diverse group of giant mammals, and discovers how the sabre-toothed cat's out-sized teeth were vital for hunting, yet easily broken. Alice looks at evidence of the bear-sized Shasta ground sloth in a cave in the Grand Canyon, and learns about the strange armadillo-like glyptodont – which was the size of a small car. (R)

7.00 Tropic of Cancer. Leg three of Simon Reeve's journey takes him from the banks of the Nile in Egypt to the edge of the Indian Ocean in Oman, introducing him to nomadic Bedouins displaced by drought. (R)

8.00 I Bought a Rainforest. Charlie Hamilton James's wife Philippa Forrester flies out to raise his spirits, and the cameraman joins two locals on a four-day mission to illegally fell a giant hardwood tree.

9.00 Wildfires 2014: Inside the Inferno. Part one of two. Kate Humble and Simon Reeve travel to Australia to discover how the New South Wales Rural Fire Service contends with as many as 100 fires a day.

10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Jo Brand, Graham Linehan and Jimmy Carr join regular panelist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of knowledge. (R)

10.45 Film: Adventureland. (2009) A college graduate falls in love while spending a summer working at a ramshackle amusement park in the 1980s. Comedy, with Jesse Eisenberg.

12.25 Sign Zone. Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Holby City. (R) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Deadline Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** My Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather.

11.30 Love Your Garden. (R) **12.30** Footie Britannia. Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly. (R) **1.00** Let Me Entertain You. Viewers' videos for Twitter and Rizzle Kicks hits, Cher impersonators and a musical showdown between wedding guests and chicken-shop workers. Last in the series. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. The men's singles final. Coverage of the conclusion of the second Grand Slam tournament of the season, staged at Roland Garros in Paris. Last year's final was a relatively tame affair, as Rafael Nadal won an eighth title by beating Novak Djokovic in his epic semi-final. Presented by John Inverdale, with commentary by Nick Mullins, reports by Celine Hinchcliffe and analysis by Jim Courier, Mark Petchey and Fabrice Santoro. Subsequent programmes subject to change. Coverage continues on ITV4. **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.50** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Soccer Aid 2014. Robbie Williams and Michael Sheen captain the pro-celebrity teams for the charity football match, live from Old Trafford, as England take on the Rest of the World (Kick-off 8.00pm).

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: Atonement. (2007) In 1935, 13-year-old Briony Tallis discovers the burgeoning relationship between her older sister Cecilia and Robbie Turner, a servant's son whom she has a crush on herself. The teenager becomes increasingly jealous of the pair and spitefully accuses him of a crime he did not commit, unaware her actions will have tragic repercussions. Joe Wright's romantic period drama, based on Ian McEwan's novel, starring Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Brenda Blethyn, Saoirse Ronan and Romola Garai.

12.40 The Store. Home shopping. **2.40** Motorsport UK. Highlights from Donington Park. **3.30** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **4.15** May the Best House Win. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** Transylvania. **7.05** British GT. **7.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** Film: Beaches. (1988) Drama, starring Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey. **5.35** Deal or No Deal.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Four Rooms. The dealers battle it out over a Cold War code-breaking machine, some one-off portraits of rock star Pete Doherty's house and a sci-fi sculpture. Can they also be coaxed into splashing out on a tantric figure and a rare Russian nude painting? Meeting each potential buyer in a separate room, the sellers must judge when to part with their valuable items and when to reject an offer. Presented by Anita Rani.

8.00 Born in the Wild. New series. Veterinary surgeon Mark Evans and comparative anatomist Joy Reidenberg explore the world of animal reproduction, looking at how different species find and attract a mate, give birth and raise their young in hostile habitats. In South Africa, Mark investigates how male elephants find females in vast home ranges, while in the Okavango Delta in Botswana, Joy sets up night-vision cameras for a rare look at the birth of a calf. The programme also reveals why these animals have the longest pregnancy of any mammal and how quickly a newborn takes its first steps.

9.00 Fargo. Molly faces increasing pressure to close the case, while Lester starts to feel like a new man. Continuing the American drama inspired by the Coen brothers' hit film, starring Billy Bob Thornton, Martin Freeman, Colin Hanks and Allison Tolman.

10.05 Film: The Debt. (2010) Premiere. Former Mossad agents find the secrets behind their killing of a Nazi war criminal 30 years ago coming back to haunt them. Thriller, with Helen Mirren and Tom Wilkinson.

12.20 Film: The Conspirator. Premiere. Period drama, starring James McAvoy. (2010) **2.20** Utopia. (R) **3.15** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **4.15** Hugh's 3 Good Things. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.50** Building the Dream. (R) **5.45** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloë's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Milkshake! Pop Box. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Big Brother: Power Trip. (R) **11.40** Film: Teen Wolf. (1985) Comedy, starring Michael J. Fox. **1.20** Film: The Money Pit. (1986) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. **3.05** Film: Ghostbusters. (1984) Supernatural comedy, starring Bill Murray. **5.10** Film: Mannequin. (1987) Fantasy comedy, starring Andrew McCarthy.

6.55 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort hotel fears his career will be jeopardised when his regular partner is forced to pull out of an important show in which they are due to perform. Luckily, a naive teenager is happy to step in, and is treated to a whirlwind holiday education in life, love and expressing himself. Romantic drama, starring Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey and Jerry Orbach. Part of Channel 5's 80's Movie Marathon.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother: Power Trip. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 The Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Part of Channel 5's 80's Movie Marathon.

1.00 SuperCasino Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Classic Car Rescue. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** In the Flesh **10.55** Family Guy **11.40** American Dad! **12.05** Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights **1.05** In the Flesh **2.00** Tiger Takes on Love **2.55** In the Flesh **3.50** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Decisive Weapons **7.30** The Science of D-Day **8.00** We Fought on D-Day **8.50** Deer in the City **9.00** Norman Wisdom: His Story **10.10** The Sky at Night **10.30** The Horizon Guide to Mars **11.30** You've Got a Friend: The Carole King Story **12.30** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **1.30** Norman Wisdom: His Story **2.30** Decisive Weapons **3.00** The Science of D-Day **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.50 America's Got Talent **2.30** Britain's Got Talent: Live Final **5.05** Britain's Got More Talent **6.10** Film: Zookeeper (2011) **8.10** Film: Year One (2009) **10.00** Film: Tap **10.45** Film: Red Dragon (2002) **1.15** Viral Tap **1.55** 100% You've Been Framed! **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.55 Lewis **2.00** Midsomer Murders **12.05** Film: In the Name of the Father (1993) **2.25** William and Mary **3.20** Judge Judy **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round four from Oulton Park. **5.40** Live French Open Tennis. Continued coverage of the day's play at Roland Garros. **8.00** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.50** Movies Now **10.00** Film: Age of Heroes (2011) **11.55** Film: The Black Windmill (1974) **2.05** Tommy Cooper **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.20** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store

E4

12.30 Youngers **1.00** Made in Chelsea **2.05** Revenge **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** The Tomorrow People **5.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Troy **8.00** Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **10.00** The Interwebsters **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Troy **1.00** Rules of Engagement **2.00** 2 Broke Girls **2.25** Drifters **3.20** Hollywoods

Film4

1.00 Hills of Home (1948) **1.00** Big Business (1989) **2.55** Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982) **5.05** King Solomon's Mines (1985) **7.00** Drillbit Taylor (2008) **9.00** Double Jeopardy (1999) **11.05** Sixteen Candles (1985) **12.55** Once Upon a Time in Anatolia (2011) **4.00** Close

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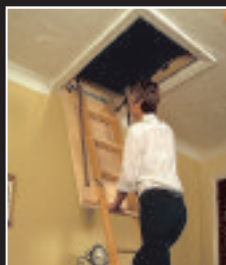
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Film Choices

MONDAY

Mystery Woman: Vision of a Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Bookshop owner Samantha Kinsey turns detective once more when she visits a health spa on business. One of the staff, a supposed psychic, has a vision of a woman's murder and leads Samantha to a body in the woodlands, which seems to confirm her premonition – but also puts her in the frame for the crime. Whodunit, directed by and starring Kellie Martin. (2005)

TUESDAY

First Blood, ITV, 10.35pm

Vietnam veteran John Rambo is wrongfully arrested in a backwoods town and tested to the limits of his endurance by a brutal deputy. Rambo escapes from his cell and heads out to the woods, and with the forces of the law in hot pursuit he finally has the chance to fight them on his own terms. Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Brian Dennehy and Richard Crenna. (1982)

WEDNESDAY

Jane Doe: Vanishing Act, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The former government agent is called back into service to investigate how a computer specialist working for a government contractor managed to disappear from a plane in mid-flight, taking communication satellite software and vital defence secrets with him. Mystery, starring Lea Thompson and William R Moses. (2005)



First Blood, Tuesday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

McBride: Requiem, Channel 5, 3.20pm

The crusading lawyer gets involved in the case of a murdered violin prodigy. The dead musician's father is convinced her fiancé was responsible, but McBride comes to his defence, and discovers the victim had a number of rivals who had the motive to kill her. Mystery, starring John Larroquette and Matt Lutz. (2006)

FRIDAY

Mystery Woman: Snapshot, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Sleuthing bookshop-owner Samantha Kinsey investigates the suspicious death of a friend. The victim had earlier complained that her greedy relatives were trying to cut her out of her brother's will and the family business, and Samantha's inquiries unearth family secrets dating back to the Second World War. Mystery, starring Kellie Martin and Clarence Williams III. (2005)

Twelve Monkeys, BBC2, 11.05pm

A time traveller from 2035 journeys back to the 1990s to discover the cause of a deadly disease that ravaged the world, only to be thrown into an asylum. But the longer he spends in the past, the more he comes to question whether he really is from the future or simply delusional. Terry Gilliam's sci-fi thriller, with Bruce Willis. (1995)

Pick of the Week

Robbie hopes to fine tune his team for victory

Everyone's gone football crazy, they're football mad – and if you've managed to escape the sport so far, brace yourself, because you're going to run into it very soon indeed.

That's because for the next month or so, both the BBC and ITV will be broadcasting the World Cup from Brazil, the sport's biggest and most prestigious competition.

And although British hopes rest on an unfancied England side, you can bet your bottom dollar that the nation will still be gripped to the screen, whether Roy Hodgson's men escape the group of death and make it to the knockout stages or not.

Perhaps the men in white will do better in this competition, which has been taking place every two years since 2006.

It's the brainchild of Unicef ambassador Robbie Williams, and while he might not be everybody's favourite performer, you've got to admit that this is a cracking idea, one which has raised lots of money for the charity while entertaining millions across the globe.

The idea is simple: an all-star England team made up of 12 celebrities and six legendary ex-professionals (one of which must be a goalkeeper) take on a Rest of the World XI.

Both teams are coached by well-known managers, with West Ham United boss Sam Allardyce taking charge of England this time, and Chelsea's Jose Mourinho leading the Rest of the World.

"Thanks to UNICEF for asking me to manage the Rest of the World at Soccer Aid on Sunday June 8 at Old Trafford," said Mourinho when his participation was announced.

"I'm looking forward to beating Robbie Williams' and Big Sam's England team and raising money for UNICEF."

England are leading in the head-to-head so far, having been beaten just once, in 2010, on penalties.

That match raised almost £3million, while last year's raised a record £4.9million – which is pretty good going in austerly Britain. But can the figure be beaten this time around? The fact that the UK Government will

be matching the donations made by the public should certainly help. We'll have to wait and see...

Now 40, Robbie has hung up his boots and is acting as assistant manager this time around.

"Soccer Aid returns for the fifth time in June and I admit there are scores to settle," says the Robster.

"Leading the England team, I will be making sure we defend that trophy against Rest of the World. There's never been a better time for us to show our support for UNICEF."

The great joy in watching the match, which takes place at Old Trafford, is seeing unlikely team-mates together on the pitch. Where else would Stephen Moyer, John Bishop, Mark Owen and Dominic Cooper rub shoulders with Des Walker, Matt Le Tissier and Teddy Sheringham? And that's just England! The Rest of the World features an amazing line-up, including Michael Sheen, James McAvoy, Gordon Ramsay, Jeremy Renner, Alessandro Del Piero, Edgar Davids, Jaap Stam and Andriy Shevchenko.



This year's pro-celebrity football match, Soccer Aid 2014, Sunday, ITV, 6pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Gail & Me: 40 Years on Coronation Street, ITV, 8pm

Has anyone in Coronation Street ever been as unlucky as Gail Potter-Tilsley-Platt-Hillman-McIntyre? She's been married five times (twice to Brian Tilsley) and widowed three times – only Martin Platt made it out alive. But she hasn't always been the downtrodden, long-suffering character we've come to know and exasperatedly shout advice at. As this documentary points out, Helen Worth was originally recruited back in 1974 to bring a little glamour and youthful energy to the cobbles. And if life on the Street has ground Gail down in the interim, that's hardly surprising, as we look back on some of her most dramatic storylines, including discovering her 13-year-old daughter was pregnant, and marrying the man she would later dub 'Norman Bates with a briefcase', serial killer Richard Hillman.

David Beckham into the Unknown, BBC1, 8.30pm

The trendsetting style icon – and recently retired footballer – embarks on an Amazon adventure, mainly on motorbike, accompanied by three of his closest friends: photographer and video director Anthony Mandler, biker expert Derek White, and Dave Gardner, his manager and boyhood buddy. Before flying to Manaus, the starting point of a journey through the rainforest, Beckham enjoys a game of beach foot-volleyball with locals from Rio's Vidigal favela, but things look set to hot up when almost 800 miles of boat and bike travel brings them to a remote jungle territory, home of the Yanonami tribe.

TUESDAY

Lineker in Brazil: The Beautiful Game, BBC1, 10.35pm

Gary Lineker presents this documentary examining the fascination with Brazilian football, featuring archive footage, interviews and profiles of some of the country's leading players. The World Cup's leading scorer, Ronaldo, gives an insight into the pleasure and pain of playing for his nation, while there is a look at Pele's role in cementing Brazil and Brazilian football firmly in the hearts and minds of the world. Michael Palin discusses the country's appeal and there are contributions from Rio Ferdinand, John Barnes and Michael Owen, and Brazilian model and TV host Fernanda Lima explores the roots and romance of Brazil and the Beautiful Game.

WEDNESDAY

All Star Mr & Mrs, ITV, 8pm

This time around, the likes of Nigel Havers, Kian Egan, Paul Ince and Johnny Vegas are set to feature with their other halves, but the mouth-watering prospect of seeing them in action will have to wait. Opening the series will be The Hoff himself, actor and all-round media love god David Hasselhoff, who's joined by his partner Hayley Roberts, TV presenter Amanda Lamb and her cameraman husband Sean McGuinness, and singer Brian McFadden and his reality star

wife Vogue Williams. Phillip Schofield (isn't it time he took part in the show himself alongside his other half Steph?) poses the questions.

Football Hooligan & Proud, Channel 5, 9pm

English supporters will be under close scrutiny during the World Cup – here's hoping the guys appearing in this documentary haven't got plane tickets to Brazil. Among them is Lee, a 37-year-old die-hard Rochdale fan who has just started his third soccer ban. "At the age of 13, I started to want to fight. I love fear," he says. Jay supports Bristol City, but because the police have stifled trouble at matches, he's joined Casuals United, a group of fans from clubs across the country who search out trouble at marches and demos. Finally there's Jason Marriner, a mainstay of the Chelsea Headhunters who is serving an eight-year ban from matches and is using his free time to write his second book about football hooliganism.

THURSDAY FIFA World Cup Live 2014

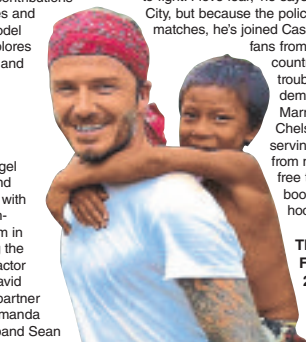
ITV, 7pm
Brazil v Croatia (Kick-off 9.00pm). The 20th staging of the World Cup gets

under way this evening at the Arena de Sao Paulo, where the host nation begin their Group A campaign. This is the second time Brazil has hosted the tournament, with the last occasion in 1950 finishing with them as runners-up to Uruguay, and the feast of global football has remarkably not been held on South American soil since Argentina's controversial home victory of 1978. Brazil are always expected to be involved in the latter stages and have the honour of being the only nation to play in every World Cup finals, but the pressure on the Samba Boys is higher than ever this year, with nothing less than victory being acceptable to their adoring, yet hard-to-please fans. Several Premier League-based players are expected to be involved tonight, with the starting XI for the hosts looking to add their names to an illustrious list of World Cup heroes that includes the likes of Pele, Garrincha, Jairzinho, Zico and Ronaldo. They begin against a Croatian side that needed a play-off against Iceland to qualify after finishing behind Belgium in their group.

FRIDAY

The Bat Man of Mexico: Natural World, BBC2, 9pm

Since he first kept vampire bats in his bathroom as a child, Mexican biologist and ecologist Rodrigo Medellin has dedicated his life to saving all species of the flying mammal. In this film, David Attenborough narrates his quest to save the endangered lesser long-nosed bat, which is crucial to the production of tequila as it pollinates the plants the drink is made from. Medellin tracks the bats' epic migration across Mexico – braving hurricanes, snakes, Mayan tombs and seas of cockroaches.



David Beckham into the Unknown, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

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Brain Gym

No.276

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	K	D	C	R	Y	E	N	L	Q	J	X	V
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
G	H	B	Z	I	M	W	O	A	P	F	S	U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Endless ignominy is feigned (4)
3. Insubstantial characters in various respects (8)
8. Incorporated by a departed civilisation (4)
9. Became a soldier and established a connection (6,2)
- 11, 20 Ac. & 16Dn. Using a lubricant to smooth out the rollers (7,3,2,8,6)
13. Undoubtedly a word of preference (6)
14. The French fever for a confederacy (6)
17. This shows the entertaining results of projection (6,6)
20. See 11 Across
- 21 & 23Ac. Without precipitation (8)
22. I'd returned to emphasise the suffering (8)
23. See 21 Across

Down

1. Captains cured fish in the ship (8)
2. It needs a hundred to add up the bill (7)
4. A share that's indispensable to the farmer (6)
5. Secret communication will indicate self-reliance (10)
6. Took the horse to the ring for cowboy exhibition (5)
7. Drains the energy from simpletons (4)
10. Society will keep him until he dies! (4,6)
12. Sign name to show one's intentions (8)
15. Dreadfully enraged by the projectile (7)
16. See 11 Across
18. Clubs in which mutinous sailors used to be found (5)
19. Sanctum nearly finished for the boss (4)

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Quick Clues:

Across

1. Barrel (4)
3. Ironmongery (8)
8. Slender (4)
9. Dissipated (8)
11. Memorable date (3-6-3)
13. Talented (6)
14. Start (6)
17. Cinema (7-5)
20. Submissive (8)
21. Otherwise (4)
22. Fragment (8)
23. Hero (4)

Down

1. Waterfall (8)
2. Cheat (7)
4. Fly (6)
5. Distracted (10)
6. Boxing ring (5)
7. Consumes (4)
10. Walker (10)
12. Airy (8)
15. Mean (7)
16. Fruit (6)
18. Perfect (5)
19. Pitch (4)

Sudoku

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Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

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8	2	5	1	9	4	6	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Midnight oil; 9 Obscure; 10 Match; 11 Enter; 12 Crooner; 13 Occult; 15 Adhere; 18 Impulse; 20 Erica; 22 Heard; 23 Castled; 24 Intemperate. Down: 2 Inset; 3 Neutral; 4 Greece; 5 Tempo; 6 Intense; 7 Come to light; 8 Charge hands; 14 Captain; 16 Dresser; 17 Teacup; 19 Ledge; 21 Inlet. QUICK - Across: 1 Destructive; 9 Aviator; 10 Alone; 11 Regal; 12 Attract; 13 Abjure; 15 Effect; 18 Expunge; 20 Cruel; 22 Alter; 23 Edifice; 24 Orderliness. Down: 2 Eying; 3 Titular; 4 Unreal; 5 Tract; 6 Violate; 7 Carriageway; 8 Teetotaler; 14 Jupiter; 16 Faction; 17 Repeal; 19 Nurse; 21 Units.

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An extended detached comes with own sauna



AN EXTENDED four-bedroomed detached house in a cul-de-sac in Pentland Gardens, Compton, Wolverhampton, has spacious accommodation, including a sauna room.

It is for sale through Connells at £339,995.

The hall has parquet flooring and a spiral staircase to a galleried landing. The lounge has a feature fireplace and the dining room has French doors to the garden, which a patio, a lawn and a decked area. The kitchen/breakfast room has floor tiling, wooden units and contrasting working surfaces and there is a cloakroom, a utility, and a family room. One of the bedrooms has en-suite and the bathroom includes a spa bath, steam shower cubicle and sauna. There is a garage and off-road parking. Contact Connells on 01902 710170 or visit www.connells.co.uk



Extended home has five bedrooms

A SUBSTANTIAL five bedroomed detached house at Fellings, Hunters Ride, Lawnswood, Stourbridge, has been extended and is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £825,000.

It has an impressive entrance hall, re-fitted guest cloakroom with a Sanitan suite, study, extended through lounge, a rear conservatory and an extended dining room. The re-fitted breakfast kitchen has been extended. There is a re-fitted utility and family room, used as a gym.

Off the galleried landing is the master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe and en-suite bathroom. There are four further bedrooms and two bathrooms. Contact (01384) 287622 or visit www.leeshaw.com



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Quinton



Higgins Lane

- * Semi detached house
- * Three bedrooms
- * Kitchen/dining room
- * Lovely rear garden
- * EPC=Ibc

Offers in the region of £159,950

Quinton



Hagley Road West

- * Traditional Style Semi Detached
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Two Reception Rooms
- * Kitchen
- * Off Road Parking
- * In need of general modernisation and improvement.
- * EPC=Ibc

£162,000

Oldbury



Apsley Road

- * Semi detached house
- * Three bedrooms
- * Extended living room
- * Extended Kitchen
- * Covered terrace onto rear garden
- * Side Garage
- * EPC=Ibc

£193,000

Halesowen



Greenhill Road

- * Split Level Detached House
- * Two Reception rooms
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Four Bedrooms
- * Two En-Suite and one Bathroom
- * Conservatory
- * Double Garage
- * EPC = C

Offers in the region of £449,950

West Bromwich



Water Works Cottage Newton Street

- * Semi detached house EPC = D
- * Tastefully improved * 3 bedrooms
- * Bathroom with both bath & shower, separate w.c. * Living room
- * Fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- * Off road parking * Gas boiler heating radiators * Open aspect over neighbouring districts
- * Internal inspection recommended

Offers in the region of £189,950

Halesowen



Narrow Lane

- * Detached house
- * Three living rooms
- * Study* Downstairs wc and utility
- * Five bedrooms one with en-suite
- * Bathroom
- * Pleasant garden
- * Timber Garage
- * EPC = D

Offers in the region of £305,000

Rowley Regis



Sandford Avenue

- * Much Improved semi detached
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Garage
- * Downstairs W.C
- * Re-fitted kitchen and bathroom
- * EPC = D

£115,000

Oldbury



Edward Road

- * Traditional Style Semi
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Through Living Room
- * Conservatory
- * Lovely Rear Garden
- * Side Garage
- * EPC=E

Offers in the region of £189,950

Quinton



Clay Drive

- * End Terrace House
- * Two Bedrooms
- * Two Reception Rooms
- * Conservatory
- * Off road parking and Garage
- * EPC = D

£124,950

Oldbury



Queensridge Court Queensway

- * Third Floor Luxury Retirement Flat
- * Complex with Host of Onsite Facilities
- * Age Requirement of 55 years
- * Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- * Principal Bedroom with En-Suite
- * Further Bedroom (or Dining Room)
- * Vacant Possession Available
- * 75% Shared Equity Subject to Charges EPC = B

Offers in the region of £84,950

Quinton



Woodridge Avenue

- * End Terraced house
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Good sized living room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Garage
- * EPC = D

Offers in the region of £169,950

Oldbury



Queensridge Court Queensway

- * First Floor Luxury Retirement Flat
- * Wheelchair access from second car park (Aldridge Road)
- * Complex with Host of Onsite Facilities
- * Age Requirement of 55 years
- * Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- * Two Bedrooms (one En-Suite)
- * 75% Shared Equity Subject to service/ maintenance Charges * EPC = B

Offers in the region of £92,500

Halesowen



Manor Lane

- * Detached House
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Living room and dining room
- * Conservatory
- * Three bedrooms
- * Garage
- * EPC = D

Offers in the region of £279,950

Halesowen



Roundhills Road

- * Detached house with 4 bedrooms
- * Lounge, sitting room & conservatory
- * Kitchen, utility, fitted cloakroom
- * Bi-fold doors from conservatory opening to landscaped gardens
- * Garage, two drives, gas boiler heating radiators
- * EPC = D

Offers in the region of £209,950

Oldbury



Plot 3 George Road

- * Link detached bungalow
- * Two bedrooms
- * Two parking spaces
- * L Shaped lounge/dining area
- * Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances
- * Luxury bathroom with shower cubicle
- * Gas boiler heating radiators
- * Fitted Carpets * EPC = C

£185,000

Oldbury



Perry Court Hagley Road West

- * Ground Floor Retirement Flat
- * Two Bedrooms
- * Shower room
- * No Chain
- * Communal Gardens
- * EPC = C

£64,895

Halesowen



29B Malt Mill Lane

- * Semi detached house
- * 2 Bedrooms
- * Fitted kitchen with oven, hob and hood
- * Living room * Gas boiler/radiator heating system
- * Garage at rear
- * Convenient location * EPC=C

Monthly rent of £535+ application fee
£135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Halesowen



Flat A 69 Long Lane

- * Spacious 1st floor flat
- * Open plan living room/kitchen
- * Kitchen has some appliances
- * Double bedroom with fitted wardrobe
- * Neutral decoration & Double glazed windows
- * Electric heating * EPC=D

Monthly rent of £325+ application fee
£135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Hicks Hadley

hickshadley.com
0121 585 6667

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



HALESOWEN, Newton Court£650 pcm - Fees
A recently converted 3 bedroom 2nd floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Long Lane £645 pcm - Fees
A lovely 3 bedroom detached property, close to the railway station and Blackheath Town Centre. Featuring 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, large lounge with dining area, breakfast kitchen with all integrated appliances, bathroom with white "P" shaped bath and shower, double glazing, gas central heating, parking available for 1 Car. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Wesley Avenue£625 pcm - Fees
We are pleased to offer this traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property located in a cul de sac position & close to local amenities. The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. Entrance hall, good size lounge, excellent kitchen/diner with a fridge/freezer, 3 bedrooms and family bathroom with separate corner shower, downstairs WC (Outside). There is off road parking for 2 cars and front and rear gardens. Available early June. EPC: D



NEW
CRADLEY HEATH, Meadow Walk£595 pcm - Fees
Quiet location and modern living. A fully redecorated semi detached house within a popular residential area featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D



MERRY HILL, Madison Avenue£595 pcm - Fees
Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, featuring kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master en-suite, a further well appointed room, allocated parking space. No Garden. A parking permit is required. EPC: C



NEW PRICE
HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£595 pcm - Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



NEW PRICE
HALESOWEN, Holt Road £575 pcm - Fees
2 MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An immaculately presented mid terraced property in a convenient location for shops, buses and motorway links. The property features a homely lounge, dining room, downstairs luxury refitted shower room, 2 double bedrooms, and 2 single loft rooms, gas central heating, double glazing, small rear courtyard garden, on road parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Victoria Road£575 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished terrace property, close to local shops in Blackheath, local buses, and not far from the M5 J2. This house features 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, huge dining kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Beecher Road£550 pcm - Fees
A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School and bus links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Aqua Court£550 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. This new build ground floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath Town Centre, and featuring 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, open plan lounge/kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space, viewing highly recommended. Additional fees will apply. EPC: B



ROWLEY REGIS, Client View£550 pcm - Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development. 'Client View' features homes of 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. Finished to an exceptional standard. This house features a spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a low maintenance garden, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, house bathroom with shower. This property will not be around for long. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Prince Street£545 pcm - Fees
Located in the centre of Cradley Heath. Ideal for shops and transport links. This semi detached house briefly comprising: 4 bedrooms (2 double, 2 single), lounge, fitted dining kitchen, downstairs w.c., bathroom with double shower cubicle. Benefits include: gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, low maintenance rear garden. EPC: C



NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf£525 pcm - Fees
A very presentable, unfurnished ground floor apartment on this popular development, ideally located for canal walks. This property features 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom with white suite, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



NEW PRICE
ROWLEY REGIS, Farm Road£499 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! Refurbished to a very good standard and located on a popular estate. This lovely 2 double bedroom house features 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen covered storage area to the rear, modern bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: TBC



NEW PRICE
DUDLEY, Gammage Street £495 pcm - Fees
Ideal for Russells Hall Hospital. Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terraced 2 bedroom property in the process of being painted and updated comprising of entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, rear garden with patio area, on road parking, available early June. EPC: F



NEW PRICE
ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road£450 pcm - Fees
Not to be missed is this 1 bedroom ground floor flat which has just undergone a full refurbishment. Standing in its own grounds within a detached house with parking for 2 cars this unique property comprises of lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower & 1 double bedroom, outside rear garden. Available now. EPC: C



NEW PRICE
HALESOWEN, Hawne Court£495 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTH HALF PRICE! Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood is this well kept ground floor apartment situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built-in appliances, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Stour Court £475 pcm - Fees
This unfurnished end terraced property is in close proximity to both Merry Hill Shopping Centre and Briarley Hill. The house features 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, nice size lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, small front garden. EPC: C



NEW PRICE
HALESOWEN, Hamilton Avenue£425 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished ground floor flat in a well sought after location of Halesowen. Ideal for motorway access and walking into town. Featuring a spacious living room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include communal garden, allocated parking space. EPC: C



NEW PRICE
CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£450 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An unfurnished 3rd floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local train station. The property features; living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive£450 pcm - Fees
This unfurnished end terraced property is in close proximity to both Merry Hill Shopping Centre and Briarley Hill. The house features 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, nice size lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, small front garden. EPC: C

Property

Barn conversion home is priced at £260,000



THIS barn conversion is in an exclusive small development of former farm buildings in Palmers Cross, on the edge of Wolverhampton.

The Palmers Cross Farm property in Codsall Road is for sale through Sanders Wright & Freeman at £260,000. The character accommodation provides a blend of rustic features and exposed beams with contemporary living features.

The hall, dining room and living room have oak flooring. There is a bedroom with en-suite plus three further bedrooms. Contact 01902 575555 or visit www.swfestateagents.co.uk



Two-bedroom semi has tasteful improvements



AN attractive two bedroomed semi-detached house in Dudley has been tastefully extended and improved and lies in a delightful cul-de-sac.

The house at 32 Austin Close, Milking Bank, is for sale through Roden Boydell at £126,950.

With gas central heating it has a reception hall with stairs off, a lounge with an attractive fireplace and Living Flame gas fire and bow window, dining kitchen with an integrated oven and hob, a separate sitting room with laminate flooring, two bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite including a bath and shower.

At the front of the house is driveway and lawn and there is a rear garden with a patio.

For further information contact Roden Boydell on 01902 881188 or visit www.rodenboydell.com website.



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EPC D



Offers Over £160,000

A detached bungalow comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and family bathroom.

Muirfield Crescent, Tividale



EPC D

Offers Over £180,000

Three bedroom link detached property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, study, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom, garden and garage.

Thelma Road, Tipton



EPC D

Offers Over £160,000

Semi detached four bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, rear garden and garage.

Dayhouse Bank, Romsley



EPC F



£150,000

This three bedroom end terraced house offers lounge, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking, garage and garden.

Apperley Way, Halesowen



EPC D

Offers Over £150,000

A detached house briefly comprising lounge, kitchen breakfast room, downstairs WC, three bedrooms and family bathroom, garage, front and rear gardens.

Callaghan Drive, Tividale



EPC C

Offers Over £150,000

Modern end terraced three bedroom town house comprising lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, master with en-suite, rear garden and garage.

Windsor Crescent, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £150,000

Detached three bedroom property comprising lounge/diner, conservatory, driveway, garage, front and rear gardens. No onward chain.

Public Notice



EPC C

£135,000

19 BRYAN BUDD CLOSE, ROWLEY REGIS, B65 9BB. We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £132,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Queens Drive, Rowley Regis



Awaiting EPC

£130,000

Property offers lounge/diner, kitchen, utility, veranda, three bedrooms, family bathroom, brick built outbuilding housing a wc, drive and rear garden.

Old Park Road, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, extended dining room, extended kitchen, rear garden and driveway.

Dimmocks Avenue, Bilston



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £100,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, front and rear gardens.

Princess Anne Road, Bilston



EPC D

Offers Over £90,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, kitchen/diner, lounge, shower room, frontage and garden to rear.

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work is performed to high levels at very competitive cost.

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Owned by Neil Lacey, Black Country 4x4 is popular with many of the area's Land Rover fans. They can always feel welcome when popping in to discuss a problem with their Land

Rover or perhaps to simply have a chat. There's a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere, with most staff having worked at Black Country 4x4 for many years. It's the kind of place where the team are on first name terms with many of their customers.

Find out more about by logging onto www.blackcountry4x4.biz, or for more information call 01384 484 853. You can find Black Country 4x4 Ltd at Unit B, Woodside Industrial Estate, Pedmore Road, Dudley DY2 0RL. Open seven days a week.

Marking 30th anniversary of BMW M5 with a special

BMW'S popular M5 performance saloon has reached an important milestone – it's 30 years old.

And to celebrate, the German car-maker has unveiled a limited edition model boasting more power than any previous M5.

Branded the M5 30 Jahre Edition, this limited run '30 Year' version packs 600 horsepower, 40 more than the standard car. Furthermore, it can sprint from 0 to 62mph in a lightning-fast 3.9 seconds.

This special anniversary model borrows heavily from the Competition package M5 variant, itself a more fo-

cused version of the base car thanks to a raft of upgrades such as tweaks to the suspension, transmission and steering.

And like the car, you'll have to be quick if you're interested, as BMW is producing only 300 '30 Year' M5s, with only 30 slated for the UK priced at £91,890.



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A first for technician Mark

Halesowen Motor House is very proud of one of its technicians. After recently completing the highest level of Vauxhall training, he has been awarded Platinum Certified Car and Van Technician – the first in the country to achieve the certificate.

Alec Priestley, service manager at Halesowen Motor House said: "We're very proud to have Mark as part of our team at Halesowen Motor House.

He has worked for the company for 12 years and we have invested in his training during this time and extremely pleased of his achievements.

"We firmly believe that investment in staff training not only enhances knowledge and productivity but also benefits the customer."

The team at Halesowen Motor House is also celebrating after scooping the award for 'Vauxhall's No1' in their car market area for 2013.

Andy Cooper, general manager said: "We are extremely proud to receive this award.

"We couldn't have achieved this without the hard work and enthusiasm of our team here and on the other sites, so I would just like to say a huge thank you to each and every one of them for their dedication.

"To us, customer experience is very important and so we always want to make sure that all new or returning customers are able to approach any member of the team and are well looked after.

Pictured above: Nigel Edwards, Alec Priestley, Martin Hall and Nikkie Greenfield.

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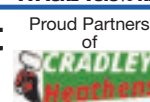
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	10 Reg Astra CDTi Design £5995 or £28pw		58 Reg Megane 1.5 DCI £4495 or £21pw		06 Reg Mini One £5495 or £25pw
	06 Reg Fiesta Climate £2995 or £13pw		07 Reg 207 HDi Sport £4295 or £20pw		57 Reg Astra 1.4 SXi £4295 or £20pw
	07 Reg 1.2 Vauxhall Corsa £4295 or £20pw		59 Reg VW Golf Tdi £6795 or £32 pw		07 Reg Peugeot 307 £3495 or £16 pw
	12 Reg Insignia SRI £9495 or £47pw		58 Reg 1.5DCI Scenic £4695 or £22 pw		10 Reg Focus 1.6 TDCi £6995 or £33pw
	09 Reg Insignia SRI £5795 or £27pw		57 Reg Skoda 1.9 TDI £5295 or £24pw		11 Reg Astra CDTi Est £9495 or £45pw

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Models shown: Alto 1.0 SZ4 available at £7,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,600 (metallic paint available at £399). Splash 1.2 SZ4 available at £9,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,980 (metallic paint available at £415). Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr available at £11,415 on the road, includes customer saving of £2,284 (metallic paint available at £430). Alto, Splash and Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 40.9 (6.9) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 56.5 (5.0) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 49.6 (5.7) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO₂ emissions from 131 g/km to 109 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *VAT free offer on Alto, Splash and Swift range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,399 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). Splash 1.0 SZ2 available at £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including a customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available at £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,116 including customer saving of £2,623 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £15,739 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport and Swift Sport SZ-R. VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st April 2014 to 30th June 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.



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Drivetime

Infiniti gives a buzz to luxury end of market

By Bill McCarthy

Infiniti for many, could conjure up images of children's favourite Buzz Lightyear. So for those people still in the dark about Infiniti, the start of the Formula 1 season will give ample reminders.

The Japanese car maker, the luxury arm of Nissan, sponsors the Red Bull racing team. And while the brand, launched in the UK continues to grow slowly in the public's consciousness, it has been around for more than 25 years, gaining particular success in America.

Standout

The cars are at the executive, luxury end of the market and offer a combination of standout design, powerful engines and cutting edge technology.

The also offer a high level of standard equipment across the range, which can add many thousands to the prices of their competitors.

No better example perhaps of this is the new Q50, a luxury saloon which is packed with technology and features a new, 2.1 litre diesel engine sourced from Mercedes, plus a hybrid version. It also marks the first car in the Q or QX range, which will brand all their cars, right up to the Formula 1 Q100 driven by Sebastian Vettel.

It is an eye-catching car both inside and



out and definitely food for thought for its German rivals. The turbocharged diesel gives the car decent acceleration and excellent economy, plus, importantly, low CO2 emissions which make it a real option in the all-important business sector. Emissions of just 114 g/km put it in the lowest benefit in kind taxation bracket and while the claimed 64-odd mpg average consumption seemed optimistic, the car was easily in the mid-50s range.

The 170PS diesel has plenty of urge, propelling the vehicle to 60mph from a standing start in just 8.5 seconds and on to a top speed of 144mpg.

But it is not all about the power. This is a

refined unit with little diesel clatter and what engine, road and wind noise there is, is effectively muffled by the car's soundproofing system. Transmission is delivered via a slick-shifting six speed gearbox sending drive to the rear wheels.

Another advantage is how the car looks, a distinct difference to the German market leaders and always attracting curiosity. It has flowing, yet muscular lines, eye-catching headlight and rear light clusters, twin exhausts twin, five-spoke 17-inch alloys and off course the Infiniti badge.

The exterior is also protected with the firms 'healing' paint, which self repairs small scratches.

Inside the car is both roomy and comfortable. It has the longest wheelbase in its class so both front and rear occupants get good head and leg room. It also features a huge 500 litre boot and the rear seat splits 60/40 for extra luggage space and there is access to the boot through the rear centre armrest.

The layout of the dash and controls is neat and logical while the dash features a battery of hi-tech equipment, dominated by the central dual touchscreen which looks pretty much like a computer tablet with its swipeable screen.

Expensive

For the most part fixtures and fitting are high class, but the expensive feeling soft touch finish in some areas is let down by some lower grade plastics.

The steering wheel is also multi function and the car features the now-commonplace push button starter.

Needless to say luxury cars need to ride well and the Q50 is a comfortable car to be a passenger and driver and although perhaps not the most dynamic of models, it still feels sure footed and grips well on corners.

At just over £30k this is a lot of car for the money. Whether it can attract the potential buyers from the established German brands remains to be seen but throw in standard kit like Infiniti Drive Mode Selector, Bluetooth, rear view camera, zone adaptive climate control, six-speaker sound system and heated leather seats and it looks an attractive package.

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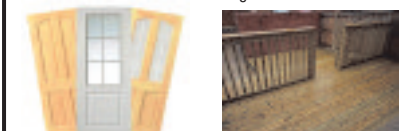
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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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NISSAN MICRA 2000 (X reg), red, 3dr, petrol, two owners, tax till Oct, MoT Feb, ideal first car. £550. o.n.o. 01902 494982. Bilston.

NISSAN TINO MPV, 2002, taxed to July, MoT'd to January, 80,000 miles, very clean car, drives well, £500. o.n.o. 07971 279249.

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HONDA HORNET CB600 F2Y, 2001, MoT'd, taxed, half faired, well maintained, just serviced, rear hugger, £900. o.n.o. 07719 657142.

SINNIS MAX 2 125CC 5 year warranty, 2 months old (03/14), excellent condition, tax Feb 2015. £950. o.n.o. 07777 632608.

SUKIDA 125 Scooter 2011, 60 plate, 12 months MoT, good condition, £550. o.n.o. 07826 525021

TRIUMPH SPRINT RS, 955 CC
 Taxed and tested, new tyres, 2000 service, holders handbook, 2 keys, 41k, excellent condition.
£1,700. o.n.o.
01384 250253. Mr Rawlings

YAMAHA WRX125 (supermoto), 2013, 4,100 miles, fsh, discounted service warranty, excellent condition, £3,200. o.n.o. 07966 765873.

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10 Personals

personal



ATTENTION LADIES 40-55
 Please don't pass this advert by, read on and see I'm a genuine guy.
 51, slim, attractive, GSOH, romantic too, hoping for reply from a lady like you.
Box Number P19256, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ATTRACTIVE, BLONDE LADY, 43
 5ft 4in, slim figure, N/S, professional, no ties, car owner, likes travel, cinema, walking, dining out, weekends away. Seeks attractive male, 5ft 10in and over, professional, N/S, car owner for.
 Friendship / Relationship. Photo please, will return.
Box Number P19244, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

BLACK GOOD LOOKING SINGLE GAY MALE
 30's, slim, loving, caring, honest. Looking for friendship and hopefully a long term relationship with an older genuine single gay man, interests include travel, garden, music, reading.
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 Call us on **07909 697785.**

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GENUINE MALE 35
 Attractive, with a GSOH, seeking a similar genuine lady, 27 - 43.
 I Enjoy country walks and pubs, nights in and out, holidays UK and abroad and would like to share these things with a like minded lady.
 Birmingham, Cannock and W'ton areas preferred. Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number C19260, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

10 Personals

personal

LADY, 63
 Single, retired, GSOH, WLTm other ladies in similar circumstances for company and friendship.
 Wolverhampton area. Likes places of interest to visit, also the sea-side.
 Transport preferred but not essential (share of costs).
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LADY MID 70's
 Tall, young looking, various interests, would like to meet a tall gentleman for friendship / companionship, car owner preferred.
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LONELY DIVORCED 56 YEAR OLD MALE
 WLTm a loyal honest and caring female, 45-55, for friendship, hopefully leading to a long term relationship. Genuine replies only.
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MALE, 50 SLIM, 5FT 10INS
 Black hair, brown eyes and tanned, Asian/English. Loving, kind, caring, sincere, easy going, romantic, sensitive, spiritual, friendly. Own business. Looking for a female soulmate to share my life with.
 Age unimportant.
Box Number P19243, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

STOURBRIDGE AREA RETIRED GENT
 5'11 1/2 tall, cuddly, young at heart, likes music, home comforts.
 W.L.T.M 55 plus lady, for warm relationship, T.L.C, short breaks.
 Own home and will meet on contact, very caring.
Box Number P19257, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

TALL, TRIM, ROUGH AND READY BUILDER
 Easy going respectable person, 52 years, seeks respectable lady for occasional lunches out with no strings or ties, can accommodate, discretion guaranteed.
Box Number P19240, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY
 Open auditions for their next production of South Pacific, will be held at St Jude's Church Hall, 21a St Jude's Road, Tettenhall, WV6 0EB, on **Wednesday, June 4, from 7pm.**
 For further details please visit: www.phoenixtheatreco.co.uk

WITHYMOOR COLTS SOUTH FC DIVISION 3
 Under 12's 2014/15 Season are looking for players in all positions to add to our current squad.
 We will be holding open day/trials, on Sunday 1st and 8th of June at 12pm and Tuesday, June 3, at 6.30pm, these will be held at Mere Road, Off Glebe Lane, Stourbridge, DY8 3AY.
 Please contact **Daniel 07767 684557** if you require more details.

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10 Personals

personal

TETTENHALL MILLIONAIRE
 52yr, Slim Gent 5ft 8. Looking for a sincere, honest, Lady to share the good things in life with.
 Photo appreciated and returned.
Box Number P19251, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOW 76
 Seeks kind and honest Gentleman for pub meals and holidays.
 (Photo appreciated, will return) Local to Sedgley, Himley and Lower Gornal.
Box Number P19263, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Mole is on board for new track project

CRADLEY have brought Tony Mole on board to take responsibility for their new track project, writes Nigel Pearson.

Mole, the British Speedway President, has an unequalled record in bringing the sport back to areas of the country which have been starved of speedway for years.

And although the Heathens are thriving at their shared Wolverhampton base, the management remain determined to take them to a new home.

Club spokesman Gary Patchett said: "Tony will need no introduction to our supporters after all but bringing the club to a new home in Colley Gate nearly 10-years ago and his success in bringing defunct clubs back to the sport is unparalleled.

"Tony's brief will be to advise on any site possibilities but with a specific focus on the potential site we have had on the radar for some time."

Mole was the man responsible for taking the sport back to Workington in 1999 and Birmingham in 2007. Heathens are next in action on Saturday, June 14, when they go to Devon - and the following afternoon Steve Worrall and Max Clegg represent the club at the National League Pairs.

Team needs old hands, says Taylor

IAN TAYLOR is urging Villa to invest in experience if they are going to improve.

The claret and blue legend insisted the lack of players going to the World Cup highlights the need for new blood. Brad Guzan and Ron Vlaar are the only two Villa players heading to Brazil after Vlaar's selection for the final Netherlands squad was rubber-stamped.

Villa have struggled in the Premier League and boss Paul Lambert has admitted he needs to buy experience to avoid another battle against relegation. "In World Cup year we used to have most of our team go away and now we have two in the whole squad and they are not English," said Taylor.

Aston is looking to lay his mark down

HOMETOWN hero Ryan Aston will be looking to "make a statement" in the light middleweight division when he tangles with European opposition at Dudley's the Venue.

"Tank" has been pitted against Bulgarian bruiser Stanislav Nenkov, who boxed in the West Midlands against Midlands champion Jason Welborn earlier this month.

The two will tangle in the main event on June 7, with Nenkov stepping in as a replacement for now-retired Brummie Terry Carruthers.

Aston boxes in Dudley for the first time

Boxing

in his 13 fight, three-year pro career and is desperate for ring time, the 23-year-old having not boxed for eight months.

Nenkov, just 19, lasted the 10-round distance with Welborn at Walsall Town Hall and will hope to do the same to another prospect in the division, looking to break through to national level.

Aston said: "There's something riding on this fight again, this lad went the distance with Jason and he's got himself a British

title eliminator now. If I can get Nenkov out of there early, it would show that I don't fear anybody at light middleweight. This is the year where I want to be stepping up.

"I was there that night when Jason fought him, so I know he will come forward and have a go. Once you pressure him, he goes into defensive mode, so I need to make him miss.

"A stoppage is the statement I want to make and I just need to get in there now, it's been too long since my last fight."

Carruthers, who was defeated by Welborn for the area crown last year, took the

fight and then surprisingly hung his gloves. Stable-mate and former British title challenger Max Maxwell was offered the fight, but passed to concentrate on his upcoming retirement bout.

The durable Nenkov has now been handed the mantle, but Aston insists his training camp has left him focused on picking up the 'W,' regardless of the opponent.

He said: "It was a shame I couldn't box Carruthers. For more information, call promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157. The Venue can be contacted on 01384 459 800.

Pubs ready for the World Cup bonanza

IT'S not long now until the whole country unites to share the agony, ecstasy and, historically, disappointment when England play in a major tournament.

And while fans get ready to paint themselves red and white and declare their love for St George and the Three Lions pubs in the Midlands are hoping the World Cup will provide a much-welcome boost.

They could be seeing even more pour through the doors than would normally be expected after it emerged there won't be any large scale public screening of games in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Birmingham.

That's because councils in the region have snubbed the chance to show England's World Cup games in Brazil on big screens in parks and town centres.

Instead bars in the Midlands are rubbing their hands at the prospect of bumper takings with the first game against Italy taking place 11pm on June 14.

None of the four Black Country councils, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley will host outdoor events showing the games.

In addition Cannock, South Staffordshire and Stafford councils won't be providing a site for England fans to enjoy the sun and the football.

And Birmingham City Council, which has held public events at Millennium Point and Victoria Square in the city centre in the past, has no plans to show Roy's boys in Brazil.

Wolverhampton City Council spokesman Gurdip

Football

Thandi said: "There are currently no plans to arrange for a big screen to be installed at a city venue to televise World Cup games during the summer.

"The council endorsed the Government's proposals to relax licensing hours during England matches which will support the city's pubs."

Government ministers gave the go-ahead for local authorities to allow pubs and bars to stay open for longer during the World Cup.

The rulings allowed pubs could stay open for up to four hours after each England match kicks off, although no alcohol can be served after 1am.

One Black Country sports bar boss says plans for authorities not to stage large gathering for games will be to the benefit of licensees."

In Wollaston, Stourbridge, The Britannia Inn Sports Bar has made England versus Italy an all ticket affair due to the demand to watch the game.

Ted Etheridge, who is one of the managers at the bar, said: "I think the fact councils aren't showing the games is a boost to pubs."

Charlotte paddles the opposition for title



Charlotte Bardsley, aged 12, from Woodfield Table Tennis Club, Penn, Wolverhampton has won her first

A YOUNG table tennis ace from a Wolverhampton club has won her first national title after battling back from the brink of elimination.

Charlotte Bardsley, aged 12 and who plays at Woodfield Table Tennis Club, Penn, Wolverhampton, claimed the national Under-12 girls' singles crown in Doncaster on Sunday.

But she was forced to dig deep in the semi-final as she fought back from 2-0 down against Alice Dillon

to win a five-set thriller 6-11, 3-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-4.

The final against Amelia Chan was more routine as she triumphed 3-1 (11-7, 12-10, 10-12, 11-5).

"I feel really happy and proud," said Bardsley, of Kinver who attends Heathfields School in Wolverley, Kidderminster.

"I thought I was buried in the semi-final, but when I won the third set I got my confidence back and

focused a bit more. I think to win a title you need determination, hard work and being able to listen, and I'm grateful to my coach and parents as well."

Charlotte's father Richard said: "She only started playing in January last year so she has done really well to achieve what she has.

"She has won a lot of tournaments already but nothing as big as this one."

George league struggles continue

Warwick & Worcester Crown Green Bowls Premier Division 1 The Greville 228 The George 183

The first team are still struggling to put together a decent run of form and were defeated away by current league champions The Greville.

The George did not have a winner until the eighth game when Steve Darling won 21-11.

Wins by Marc Wilson (21-9) and Paul Hemming (21-19) in the back four kept the margin of defeat down to 45 shots.

South Staffs Premier Division The George 251 Hawkins 139

The seconds had a big 112-shot home win over newly-promoted Hawkins, picking up 13 valuable points. They had 11 winners, the best of which were Bill Chiswell (21-2), Darren Wood (21-4) and Gary Peniket (21-6)

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2 The George 242 Broomfield 168

The third team had a convincing 74-shot home win over local rivals Broomfield to keep their promotion push on track. The best of their 10 winners were Jan Pratley (21-5), Dave James and Terry Williams (both 21-8).

Keane in frame for Villa No.2

ROY KEANE has emerged as a shock contender to assist Paul Lambert as the Villa boss closed in on his No.2 today.

Ireland assistant Keane is on the verge of joining the claret and blues after rejecting the chance to manage Celtic.

Despite the club's impending sale Lambert has been looking for new coaching staff since No.2 Ian Culverhouse and head of football operations Gary Karsa were sacked for unconfirmed disciplinary issues last month.

Gordon Cowans and Shay Given were promoted to aid the first team but Lambert wants a permanent assistant.

Joining Villa will allow



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Brazil nuts

Pubs hope to cash in on World Cup fever

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Title tabled

Charlotte takes national honours

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Second bid for Maguire rejected

WOLVES have had a second bid rejected by Sheffield United for defender Harry Maguire.

It's understood Wolves have tested the water with a new offer of around £1.2m – rising to £1.5m – for the 21-year-old central defender after having an opening bid of £1m snubbed last week.

The Blades are seeking around £2m for the highly-rated stopper, who has a year to run on his contract and wants to leave Bramall Lane.

United's managing director Mal Brannigan said: "We've had one or two bids that have been rejected so far for Harry. Both bids have come from the same club. He has the chance to play Championship football next season."

Brannigan added: "If you look at the amount of money that could come in for Harry, we could utilise it on the squad, but we'd much prefer him to stay."

The indications are that it could become a drawn-out process for Wolves after this week's free transfer arrival of Peterborough captain Tommy Rowe.

Brannigan is seeking to prove he's as tough a negotiator as Wolves chief executive Jez Moxey and the Blades are anxious to avoid a repeat of the bargain sale of Kevin McDonald.

Walsall kitted out for action

DEAN Smith has hailed Walsall's attractive "brand" and claimed it will help encourage players to join this summer.

The Saddlers are celebrating good news off the pitch, after signing a new three-year shirt sponsorship deal with HomeServe.

And Smith is confident of success on the pitch next season, as he looks to add more bite to a playing squad which was in the top half of League One for almost all of last term.

While he operates with one of the division's smallest playing budgets, Smith believes the club's philosophy of both playing and doing things the right way has made them an attractive package to players.

"I recently sat down with the chairman and the chief executive and told them I think as a brand, our club is in a good place," he said.

Maritz makes hay with blistering century

SOUTH African blaster Jacobus Vorster Maritz smashed a blistering century to fire Wednesbury into third place in the Staffs Club Premier Division table.

Hiss 62-ball 103 helped his side race to 179-5 inside 28 overs as they claimed a five-wicket win against Rugeley. His knock included seven sixes and enabled Wednesbury to recover from 5-2.

Earlier, Waqas Ahmed's 4-41 had helped dismiss Rugeley for 178. Kieran Smith hit 50 and claimed two wickets for Rugeley, but Maritz's fireworks brought the victory.

Wednesbury skipper Bal Matharu said:

Cricket

"He batted brilliantly. He was a different class to anybody else and it looks on the scorecard like a one-man show, although the middle-order lads that batted with him did really well to support him and rotate the strike.

"We bowled well for 35-40 overs then let it slip a bit and then we didn't start our innings very well."

Pelsall top the league by four points after securing a 20-run win over Beacon.

Alex Jones made 55 in Pelsall's total of

195. Matthew Tonks took 2-35 for Beacon but they were bowled out for 175 despite Richard Wissing's 67 after Todd Henderson's 6-26 blew Beacon away.

Steve Acton-Brown revealed his relief after Old Wulfs claimed their first win of the season, against Coseley.

The captain's son, Jordan, took 3-12 on his first-team debut after a player dropped out. "I thought I'd let him have a go," said the skipper. Stuart Jones top-scored with 53 in Coseley's 167, but Jamie Acaster's 46 helped Old Wulfs to 170-8 and victory.

Overseas star Ovais Yousuf hit an un-

beaten 100 as Aldridge claimed a nine-wicket win against Whittington. Opener Chris de Wit was 79 not out as Aldridge raced to 190-1 after Imran Jamshed had claimed 6-47 in Whittington's 186. Greg Hunt made 54 for Whittington and Dan Bailey 38.

Aussie all-rounder Dan Upward weighed in with bat and ball as Lichfield claimed fourth place with a tense 14-run win against Swindon.

His 51 was the mainstay of his side's 174. He then removed two of Swindon's top three to return with figures of 2-23.

Doyle 'in the dark' on deal

KEVIN DOYLE insists he is still in the dark despite claims his five-year Molineux stay will finally be over this week.

Reports from Queens Park Rangers suggest the 30-year-old Ireland striker will this week complete a £1m permanent switch to the club he helped return to the Premier League.

But the player, currently on international duty on the Irish trip to the USA, said he knows nothing and hasn't even ruled out a return to Wolves.

"I'll have no problem going back and everyone is perfectly civil and fine with me. It's not a case people don't talk to me," he said of the atmosphere he left behind when he made his loan switch to QPR in January.

"They have decisions to make and they'll make them. When I'm back it will be enjoyable training and we'll see then."

"It's up in the air, I am here until the end of the USA trip and back to Wolves on July 7. That's all I know, that's the only guarantee I have."

"There is nothing said and nothing has been guaranteed."

Club revival is just the ticket

WOLVES say 12,500 season tickets have already been sold as fans rally to the Kenny Jackett revival.

The club is confident it will hit its target of 14,500 after promotion to the Championship. The thumbs-up from the box office is another reminder of the repair job head coach Jackett has undertaken.

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MULUMBU MOVE IS LAUGHED OFF

ALBION have laughed off claims that Youssouf Mulumbu could leave this summer as their head coach search rumbled on.

The Baggies have reacted with indifference to the latest summer claims from Mulumbu's representatives that the midfielder, who signed a new two-year deal at the start of last season, could move on.

And attentions behind the scenes at The Hawthorns are focused instead on finding Pepe Mel's successor, with the club still keen to make an appointment early next week.

Mulumbu, whose deal has an extra year's option in Albion's favour, is no stranger to summer speculation with his name linked to moves away in every summer of his Baggies career.

Agent Doug Pingisi said: "Youssouf has completed a good, consistent season despite the difficulties West Brom encountered."

Matured

"He's demonstrated that he's gone up a level and has matured all round. He's now aspiring to test himself in European competitions."

However, Albion officials have privately dismissed the comments.

They are continuing to interview potential candidates to replace Mel but ex-Swansea boss Michael Laudrup is unlikely to be among them after he appeared to rule himself out.

Laudrup, who led Swansea to Capital One Cup success in 2013 but left the club last season amid frosty relations with his players, had

Football

been favoured by a section of the Albion fanbase as the ideal man to take over.

The Denmark legend told the media in his homeland: "I have talked to clubs in England and Spain."

"I will try to not sound arrogant now, because I am not, but it has been clubs on a level where I have already been."

"I have tried smaller clubs in the two big leagues, Getafe and Mallorca in Spain and Swansea in the Premier League."

"Therefore, I do not see any reason to repeat it."

"That leaves with me two options: to wait for an offer from a big club or accept one of the offers I have received from clubs outside Europe."

Meanwhile, Saido Berahino admits he has had a 'crazy' season and he could never have anticipated the success he achieved in his breakthrough season at Albion.

"It's been a crazy season with ups and downs; my breakthrough into the first team, which I didn't expect to go the way it did," he said.

"I thank God for everything that's happened."

I can't wait to hear the Molineux support – Rowe



Wolves' new signing Tommy Rowe is looking forward to playing in front of the fans at Molineux

TOMMY ROWE has insisted he can't wait to sample the "spectacular" Molineux atmosphere as a Wolves player as he vowed to be Kenny Jackett's flexible friend.

The 25-year-old former Peterborough captain scored at Molineux as a Posh player on Boxing Day 2012 in a 3-0 away win in what proved to be one of the final nails in Steve Solsbakken's coffin, before being on the losing side in April as Wolves won

2-0. Now he is looking forward to having the support of a Molineux in full voice behind him.

"I can't wait to play in front of the fans," said Rowe. "I've played at Molineux a few times and the atmosphere is always spectacular."

"To have those fans behind me now is something I'm really looking forward to. We've had some good games against Wolves over the last couple of years including in the

Championship when we had a great day and I managed to score."

Rowe can play left-back, left wing or central midfield, and, although head coach Jackett sees him operating mostly in the last of those roles, the Mancunian is happy to play in whatever position he's needed.

"I had an initial chat with the gaffer just about football and where I'm comfortable and where he sees me fitting in," said Rowe.

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